Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

With less than a month to go before the delegate election, have you decided on who to vote for?

Yes	142
No	32

Sunday, October 17, 2010

INSIDE

Triple J Development

CDA approved the proposed lease term of Triple J Saipan for the Pacific Gardenia Hotel property in Chalan Kanoa only after another proposal was rejected by the agency.

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Calculatingly Bold

Lindsay Avner is no shrinking violet.

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Baby Boy

It's a boy for Alicia Keys and her husband, music producer/rapper Swizz Beatz.

Life & Style...Page 21

CHC collections up by $5.7M in FY'10. PAGE 2
Voluntary 16-hour pay cut for lawmaker. PAGE 6

$392K sole-source contract to Ada planned as early as Sept.

» Taxpayers say sole-sourcing not justified, needs to be investigated

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had planned to award a contract to Michael J. Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions as early as September when Ada informed the governor he's stepping down as Commerce secretary in early October.

Ada

At the time, Ada told the governor he would step down on Oct. 1. This later became Oct. 11, and then Oct. 9.

The Fitial administration announced on Oct. 13 that Ada stepped down as Commerce secretary to pursue his doctorate degrees.

But on the same day, Ada's private

See CONTRACT on Page 4

A FAMILY THAT DONATES TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero, second from left, is assisted by his family in donating educational books and toys to the Autism Society of the CNMI at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office on Middle Road Saturday morning. From left, Joseph Guerrero, his sons Angel Ray and Joseph Jr., and wife Vicky, who is the governor's special assistant for programs and legislative review.

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ON CLEANUP OF TANK 104

EPA concerned over CUC's 'lack of plan'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s alleged lack of plan in addressing the cleanup of a used oil tank at CUC's power plant in Lower Base.

CUC admitted it foresees massive delay in the Tank 104 cleanout due to the nature of the sludge that it must remove from the tank, as well as the difficulties in locating a facil-

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PARENTS WANT SOLUTION TO LONGTIME PSS PROBLEMS

Lack of school nurses, gyms, specialists top concerns in CNMI schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Visiting officials from the U.S. Department of Education—Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris and special advisor on congressional affairs Crystal Martinez—were bombarded by questions about issues at local schools during Friday's parents' summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

They heard particular concerns about the lack of school nurses, gymnasiums, and specialists in specific school programs as among the longtime problems faced by the CNMI Public School System.

PSS administers 20 public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

However, though Harris assured continued assistance for education in the CNMI, he did not make any concrete funding commitment to resolve the

See LACK OF on Page 4

Local

CHC collection up by $5.7M in FY'10

Overall collection at the Commonwealth Health Center posted a significant increase to $20.465 million in fiscal year 2010 compared to $14.719 million in FY 2009.

Its expenditures, however, mirrored the increase in collections, as the hospital spent $29.751 million in FY 2010 compared to $24.571 million the year before.

Esther Muna, public health acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* the collection records and lauded CHC staff for all their hard work.

"While we realize that we are still spending more than what we are collecting, the increase in collections is very significant and hospital staff involved in the revenue cycle staff should be commended for it," said Muna.

She added that the revenue cycle begins when a patient checks in and ends when the payment is received after services are rendered.

"This increase in collections should motivate hospital staff to get involved more in identifying other reimbursement and cost-reduction opportunities. They are also the stakeholders of efficient and quality health care and it is in everyone's interest to help our hospital succeed," added Muna.

Saipan Tribune learned that out of the FY'10 collections, Medicare payment is $9,402,186.69.

Muna said the significant Medicare payments reemphasize the need for hospital to be in compliance with Medicare regulations. She said this involves every hospital staff and not just doctors and nurses.

At present, the hospital official said that they are 95 percent in compliance with Medicare standards and hopeful on the positive result of the re-survey conducted recently on island.

Last January the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducted a complaint investigation survey at the hospital which findings uncovered serious deficiencies at the center. Medicare earlier warned the hospital that noncompliance with its standards would result to termination of its accreditation with Medicare, thus would not qualify to receive reimbursement of services from Medicare patients.

Hospital officials earlier said that violations of Medicare standards and requirements are directly tied up with the present financial situation of the government.

These "violations" cover deficiencies in six areas including the governing body, quality assessment and performance improvement, medical staff, nursing services, radiologic services, and infection control. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

6 months in jail for man who attacked Kagman resident

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a six-month jail term on a man, who along with his brother, attacked a resident of Kagman reportedly over a family dispute in connection with a murder case years back in Palau.

Manglona sentenced on Friday Kabrel Rede Kelulau to six months in prison with credit for 94 days he already served in jail.

Manglona ordered the 46-year-old Kelulau to report to the Department of Corrections to serve the remaining 86 days on Nov. 24 to Nov. 25, 2010; Dec. 23, 2010 to Jan. 2, 2011; April 15, 2011 to April 24, 2011; and June 17, 2011 to Aug. 19, 2011.

After completing the jail term, the defendant will be placed on probation for five years.

Kelulau was ordered to perform 20 hours of community work service, and pay a $50 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $100 annual probation service fee.

Manglona ordered the defendant to jointly pay $480 in restitution with co-defendant to the victim, Gloyd Martin Sr.

The judge required Kelulau to report to the Community Guidance Center for evaluation and complete any recommended course of treatment.

Manglona ordered the defendant to stay away from the victim, his son, and immediate family on Saipan, during the probationary period.

Kelulau and his court-appointed counsel Sean Frink, signed a plea agreement with assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg.

The defendant pleaded guilty to assault and battery, a lesser-included offense of assault with a dangerous weapon.

In May 2010, Manglona sentenced Kabrel Kelulau's brother, Petrus Kelulau Tomei, to 15 days in jail, for pleading guilty to assault.

Police said according to Martin, he was in the shower at his house on Dec. 15, 2008 while his children were sleeping when he heard someone calling his name outside.

Martin saw Kabrel Kelulau standing in the garage and shouting they are prepared to kill him.

Martin closed the door of the house, but saw his then 7-year-old son walking out of the kitchen door.

Martin said Kabrel Kelulau tried to stab the boy with a machete so he ran after his son and brought him back inside the house.

The victim grabbed a bush cutter from the kitchen and used it to counter Kabrel Kelulau's attack. Petrus Tomei grabbed a machete and joined in the struggle.

The brothers were both hit and injured with the bush cutter and fled on board a vehicle.

Martin told police that Kabrel Kelulau had murdered his uncle in Palau a long time ago and had spent substantial jail term. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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New law moves today's Youth Congress polls to March 2011

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law Friday night a bill that postpones today's scheduled CNMI Youth Congress elections until the first Monday in March 2011 to give students and other youths more time to prepare for the polls.

Those who failed to register to vote or file their candidacy for the original Oct. 18 election now have a chance to participate in the March 7, 2011 election.

Rep. Stanley Torres's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 17-87, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 1 is now Public Law 17-22.

The new law also reduces the number of youth senator seats, from the current 25 to only 10—at least for the March 2011 election, based on the number of participating public and private high schools.

This is because of the elimination of seven youth senator seats allotted to election precinct districts and three seats for Northern Marianas College, and the reapportionment of the Youth Congress membership only to participating private and public high schools of the CNMI.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna Reyes said yesterday that there are only 10 schools participating in the upcoming Youth Congress election.

The CNMI Youth Congress Reform Act of 2010 also increases the term of each elected youth senator, from one year to two years.

The governor signed Torres' bill a few hours after the House approved the Senate's amendments to it on a 15-1 vote.

Only House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) voted "no" on the Senate amendment to the bill.

"If we are appropriating money to the Youth Congress, the Youth Congress members should have more say on how their funds are spent. The speaker should have more say on how their funds are spent. The speaker should give his or her consent rather than a simple consultation from the bureau director," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* when asked about his vote.

Torres said the Senate's only amendment to his bill is on the expenditure authority provision, wherein the director of the Legislative Bureau remains as the expenditure authority of the funds appropriated to the Youth Congress "in consultation with the speaker of the Youth Congress."

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), however, voted "yes" on the Senate-amended bill during Friday's session.

Under PL 17-22, the general election for the Youth Congress will be held on the first Monday in March 2011 and every two years thereafter.

The Youth Congress, created through PL 8-27, seeks to provide a system which allows the youth to prepare to meet the challenges of the future and to make recommendations to the policymakers on youth programs.

Torres said voter turnout for the Youth Congress election has been on the decline for precinct election districts in 2006, 2007, and 2008, although it saw a significant increase in 2009. Also, only one of three seats given to NMC was filled in 2007.

Reyes, in a separate statement yesterday, cited new requirements set forth in the law, including, eligibility of voters and candidates, the elimination of

See NEW LAW on Next Page

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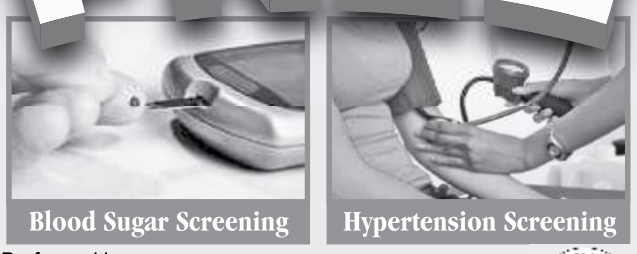

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Senate president forms task force on tax policy review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) formed on Friday an ad-hoc committee to review tax policies and enforcement in light of the government's budget shortfall.

Manglona said the Tax Policy and Enforcement Review Committee will "address the budget shortfall and the need for revenue generation."

He appointed Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) to chair the committee. He also named Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as committee members.

"I am also giving the committee the option to appoint two additional members from the community to be selected at the discretion of the chairman. The committee is to report on its findings in no more than 90 days," Manglona said in a memorandum to all senators.

Manglona

Hofschneider, in a phone interview yesterday, said the committee will schedule a series of meetings with departments and stakeholders this week.

"We will revisit tax policies in the CNMI. We will look at ways to improve the policies and the enforcement of tax laws and regulations. We will also see if these tax laws need to be repealed or changed. We will definitely work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, is opposed to tax increases without expert studies on its impact.

Manglona said while the government has been able to pass a budget, there are still a lot of work to do.

"The Commonwealth is still in an economic crisis, and economic growth continues to look bleak. Government workers are suffering a 25-percent pay cut, and the governor has just mentioned a possible need to cut more," he said.

He said the task force shall meet with all relevant agencies, business groups, and any other relevant citizens, "to educate ourselves on the best ways to help our government."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had said he may lower the projected revenue from $132 million to $122 million available for government operation in Fiscal Year 2011 because of additional obligations that were not part of his April 1 budget submission to the Legislature.

LACK OF

From Page 1

aforementioned concerns.

Instead, he allowed Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to disclose to parents the specific goals and actions being taken by PSS in addressing the local issues.

Sablan revealed that concerns on additional classrooms, gymnasiums, and other facilities are included in PSS' plan under the proposed $15-million tax-free bond it wants to secure from the federal government.

However, the commissioner admitted that because of the previous and current Legislature's failure to affix their support to this proposal, it delayed the implementation of the plan.

"You know there's one big funding we have not secure yet from the federal government and that's the $15-million interest-free bond. The intent to secure that is for the development of our infrastructure which includes gymnasiums, cafeterias, and additional classrooms for kindergarten…we have attempted thrice [at the Legislature] but they have yet to give their support," the commissioner explained.

She asked the over a hundred parents to demonstrate their support to these goals by joining PSS and the Board of Education in appealing for the Legislature's support.

Sablan, on the issue of lack of school nurses, admitted the dim possibility of hiring school nurses for individual schools.

However, she assured parents about PSS' effective partnership with the Department of Public Health in bringing needed services to the students.

"We're really trying our best … but I don't foresee opening the nursing positions in the near future. But this is a major area of concern not only in the board but to our schools. At present, we have a partnership with DPH on the needed services for our kids," she explained.

Dr. Harris, to encourage parents to understand the system's local issues, shared his personal experience and how a determined child can be successful in developing his skills despite the lack of amenities.

"From my personal standpoint, I believe in finding ways to develop the kids' talents and skills. I went to college on a basketball scholarship…because my family can't send me to college, basketball did it for me…" Harris told parents as he responded to concerns on lack of sports amenities and facilities that continue to hamper children's interest in sports.

CONTRACT

From Page 1

firm IPS bagged a sole-source contract from the Fitial administration worth $392,406, based on a copy of the 13-page, 18-month contract obtained by *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

Fitial wrote a Sept. 23 letter to Public Auditor Michael Pai to ask for clearance from the Office of the Public Auditor "in relation to a contract award between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Integrated Professional Solutions."

Fitial said the purpose of the contract is to outsource the CNMI's management of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars to the private sector.

Concerned citizens, however, question the appropriateness of the sole-source contract to Ada's firm.

"This latest and very lucrative contract to Mr. Ada is extremely questionable but it's just one of many questionable contracts sole-sourced by this administration," said former representative Tina Sablan who has made her crusade to rid the government of corruption.

Sablan said all of the professional service contracts that the Fitial administration has sole-sourced "need to be investigated."

"If local authorities won't do it, then I hope federal authorities would," she added.

Another taxpayer, Ed Propst, echoed Sablan's concern that the sole-source contract to Ada's firm is not justified.

"Sole sourcing is for emergency cases. Ignorance on Fitial's part should not constitute an emergency," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said critics need to understand the terms of the contract.

"The government did not hand $392,000 to Mike Ada as an individual. Ada's firm will be taking over employer responsibilities and expenses of the personnel who work at the ARRA Office away from the government," he said.

Demapan also said that IPS will have to shoulder its own costs to maintain its office, utilities, transportation, and so forth.

"These are expenses that will no longer be expended by the Commonwealth. Instead, through the privatization of the ARRA functions, IPS will also be subject to business gross revenue taxes that will translate into economic activity and added cash collections to the CNMI's coffers. So when you subtract all that from an 18-month operation, it is a sound investment to protect nearly $100 million in ARRA funds that will be invested in the CNMI," he said.

When Ada was still in government, he was not earning salary being an ARRA state lead unlike other U.S. states and territories. He was only earning reportedly less than $50,000 a year as Commerce secretary and ARRA state lead.

"The question many are asking is, what public purpose does it serve to privatize a job for 10 times the amount it used to cost?" Sablan added.

Back in September, the governor told the public auditor that the proposed contractor is the then CNMI state lead for ARRA, "who will be stepping down in his role as the CNMI Secretary of Commerce beginning October 1, 2010."

Fitial told Pai that Ada has an extensive historical knowledge and non-public information of all ARRA funds.

"His clear advantage with the intricacies of the ARRA funds creates a distinct advantage should the CNMI bid out the services according to procurement regulations. This will disqualify Mr. Ada from participating in the bid, which he has a clear right to protest," Fitial told Pai.

Pai, in an Oct. 7 response, told Fitial that OPA is aware of Ada's extensive knowledge of the ARRA program and understands the need for the continuity of the ARRA program and reporting.

But Pai said OPA is not able to provide an opinion whether this contract meets the requirement for sole-sourced contract.

He said OPA acts as an appellate body to review decisions made by Procurement and Supply in the event a party protests, and the validity of a sole source contract depends upon the specific terms of the contract such as the duration and rate of compensation.

In an Oct. 6 letter to Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan, Fitial also asked for guidance "relevant to a potential sole sourcing of work for the management of the CNMI's (ARRA)."

"As the governor, I am not in a position to place the CNMI in further financial strain than is currently the case. It should be noted that the funds utilized to pay for services through this contract are not federal funds, rather it is the allowable cost recovery as outlined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget," Fitial told the director of Procurement and Supply.

But Tina Sablan said the Fitial administration "has made a regular practice of creating emergencies, real or perceived, in order to justify sole-sourcing contracts to political supporters."

EPA

From Page 1

ity to accept the material. CUC said the disposal of the contents in the tank could take up to two years to complete.

Under the second joint stipulation entered by EPA and CUC, Tank 104 must be cleaned and all oil must be removed and properly disposed of by Nov. 15, 2010.

Attorney Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental Enforcement Section submitted on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI the U.S. government's 60-day report relating to the second joint stipulation executed by EPA, the CNMI government and CUC on Aug. 12, 2010.

The second joint stipulation provides, among other things, deadlines for CUC to comply with. The first and second stipulated orders were intended to resolve longstanding deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program.

O'Brien in his report specifically on the tank cleanout project, said the work on Tank 104 has been stalled since approximately Sept. 20, 2010.

"This project has been stalled because CUC's contractor does not have appropriate means to remove the two feet of oil and grease at the bottom of Tank 104 and CUC did not contract for the disposal of the material," O'Brien said.

He pointed out that there is currently no effective disposal plan for this material.

EPA, O'Brien added, has concerns regarding CUC's lack of a plan for addressing the material in Tank 104 and the work being completed by Nov. 15, 2010, as required by the second joint stipulation.

CUC, through counsel Deborah E. Fisher, also filed its 60-day status report in federal court on Thursday.

Fisher said the project involves the testing of drum contents and removal of all drum contents from the area as well as the removal of all contents from Tank 104.

"Basically, CUC is dealing with a heavy sludge, which it is having a hard time removing," she said.

In addition, the lawyer said, due to the deficiency of the analytical result from the lab initially, there was no approval for the movement of the Tank 104 bottom sludge.

Fisher said the contractor faced delays in getting the proper tests done on the sludge, even though the lab had enough of a sample to provide this data.

"This delay meant that incineration of the pumpable sludge did not proceed as quickly as CUC would have liked," she said.

Fisher said the sludge has proven difficult to pump out of the tank, as the solids content is high and the product has all the qualities of grease.

She said one solution is to look for larger pumps or heaters to move this product.

Another solution, she said, is to "cut" it with used oil or diesel, but this increases the quantities that would need to be burned.

"Second, the muzzles of the incinerators get clogged when the grease does not break up to less than 5mm particles. This slows the process," the CUC lawyer said.

She said the inability to handle the sludge and the practical difficulty in emptying the tank due to the physical nature of the product has delayed the project.

Since this is the first time CUC has embarked on a project of this magnitude meeting federal disposal standards, Fisher said the utility agency has been in constant discussion with EPA.

CUC, she added, has been seeking technical advice on known economical and expeditious methods from EPA's experience in handling such wastes.

Fisher said there are a number of ideas and proposals which CUC has discussed with EPA to solve the problems which have risen as CUC attempts to remove and dispose of the sludge from Tank 104.

"CUC continues to experiment with more cutting and heating of the agitator in the tank at the incinerator to be able to burn more material, but it has been a slow process to date," she said.

Overall, Fisher said CUC has demonstrated its commitment to accomplishing the work required by the stipulated orders, and continues to cultivate and pursue a positive working relationship with EPA.

NEW LAW

From Page 3

seats for precinct election districts and NMC, term of office, and expenditure control measures, among other things.

The Legislative Bureau director said changes will be made to registration and candidacy forms to incorporate the new requirements.

"We will be seeking the assistance of the schools to determine eligibility of registered voters and candidates who submitted their registration and candidacy petitions and documents prior to the enactment of the law to ensure full compliance (with) the newly enacted law," Reyes said.

She said eligible students who have not registered and/or filed their candidacy petitions and documents will have the opportunity to participate in the 2011 election.

"We will be requesting respective schools to allow us an opportunity to orientate students of the new requirements of Public Law 17-22, as well as the program of the CNMI Youth Congress," she added. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Angel Ray donates to Autism Society

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero, seventh from left, is flanked by his family and members and supporters of the Autism Society of the CNMI during his donation of educational books and toys to the organization on Saturday morning.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Cancer survivor Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero continues to put smiles on children's faces, this time with the members of the Autism Society of the CNMI.

Guerrero donated educational books, games, and toys for the Autism Society of the CNMI before the group's monthly meeting last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. conference room in Gualo Rai.

"I decided to give it to the Autism Society because I know they need it and put it to good use for the kids," said Guerrero as he presented the donation to the group.

Guerrero said the materials he donated were given by U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan and came from the U.S. Congressional Library.

"There's many, many more to come," Guerrero added.

Guerrero came up with his "pet project" to help children in the community who are in need as a way of thanking all the people who have helped him in his battle against cancer.

A junior at Saipan Southern High School, Guerrero had undergone medical treatment in Hawaii when he was diagnosed with Medullablastoma at the age of 12.

Guerrero's initial task was finding nine wheelchairs that were donated to the CNMI-Hawaii Liaison office in Honolulu for the medical referral patients coming from Saipan through the help of Hawaii Rep. Glenn Wakai.

Since then, Guerrero had been able to donate to various organizations on Saipan, including the pediatric ward of the Commonwealth Health Center and the Division of Youth Services.

"It makes me feel better every time I do this as a survivor," said Guerrero after the donation.

According to his mother Vicky Guerrero, they are looking at visiting the Karidat Social Services to find out what kind of assistance they can provide the organization.

Vince Merfalen, one of the charter members of the Autism Society of the CNMI, said this is the first time that the group has received in-kind donation.

He said they usually receive monetary contributions from members, private individuals and businesses.

"On behalf of the Autism Society, we are grateful for the donation of Angel Ray," said Autism Society vice president Romeo X. Cuellar.

Cuellar said that as a non-profit organization, Autism Society has limited resources so they rely on the goodness of people to help provide the needs of children with autism and autism-related spectrum disorders.

He said they plan on establishing a resource room for these children to help empower and educate them.

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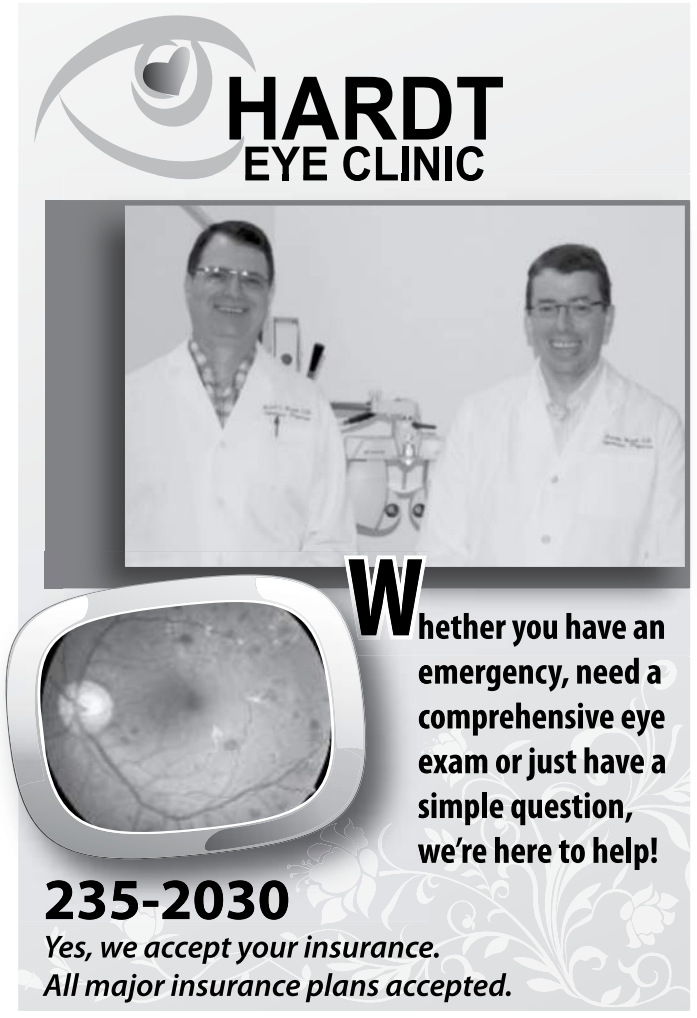
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Voluntary 16-hour pay cut for lawmaker

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is submitting herself to a voluntary 16-hour pay cut per pay period effective Oct. 24, in solidarity with hundreds of other government employees who will receive the same work hour reduction under the budget law for Fiscal Year 2011.

Santos wants the money deducted from her salary to be allotted to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation.

The CNMI Constitution exempts lawmakers from any payroll deduction, along with the governor, lieutenant governor, judges, and justices.

But so far, only Santos—among lawmakers—is volunteering a pay cut for FY 2011. Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) has long been donating his salary to the Scholarship Office.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also volunteered to cut their salaries long before the signing of the new budget law, Public Law 17-21.

Santos wrote to Finance Secretary Bob Schrack on Friday, submitting her approval and request for a reduction of 16 hours from her government payroll every pay period effective Oct. 24, 2010.

"That said amount shall be forwarded or deposited to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation as scholarship funds for any eligible or qualified Rota students pursuing higher education at the Northern Marianas College or abroad," Santos told Schrack in her one-page letter.

The Fitial administration earlier said the 16-hour work cuts per pay period embedded in the $132 million budget for FY 2011 will take effect on Oct. 24.

Customer sues store over alleged slippery floor

A customer has sued a store in Garapan over the pain and suffering as a result of his fall on the establishment's alleged slippery floor.

Jay Foster, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, sued Yun's Corp., owner of 99 Cents Mart, for negligence.

Foster asked the Superior Court to order the defendant pay him damages, court's costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune called 99 Cents yesterday for comment, but a staff said the manager was off.

Torres stated in the complaint that on May 29, 2009, Foster went to 99 Cents to shop for groceries when he turned a corner and unexpectedly slipped on a puddle of water that was on the floor.

"The slip was so sudden that plaintiff Jay did not have time to react and he fell hard on his side and back on the concrete floor," the lawyer said.

He said Foster's foot went flying under one of the metal shelves that was being used to stack merchandise.

Torres said one the employees tried to assist Foster to remove his foot from the shelves, but it caused more pain so he eventually told the staff to stop.

At the time of the fall, Torres said his client could not see the water because it was a clear substance that blended into the floor.

The lawyer said 99 Cents failed to place any signs to warn its customers of the danger that a slippery floor posed.

"Defendant 99 Cents has a duty to reasonably and prudently maintain its premises and floor in a safe condition," Torres said.

As a result, Torres said, Foster suffered immediate shock and trauma, and also sustained serious personal injuries resulting in hospitalization, medical expenses, severe pain, and emotional and mental distress. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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OCTOBER 18 - 22

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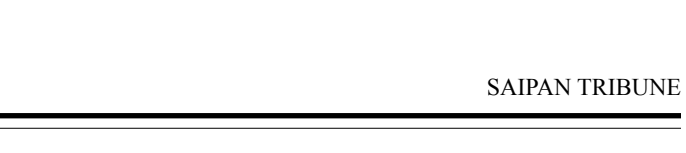

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VENUE : GARAPAN CENTRAL PARK

PROGRAM
10:00 AM "BAZAAR" Start
11:00 AM OPENING

EVENT "YOSAKOI" PERFORMANCE
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"SHAMISEN MUSIC" etc…

14:00 PM CLOSING

FOOD STAND
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GAME STAND
Fukubiki (Japanese Raffle Game), Shooting, Kingyo Sukui, Ring-toss……..and a lot more!

13 surveillance cameras down at Saipan airport

The Francisco S. Ada-Saipan International Airport is at risk of being cited by the Transportation Security Administration for noncompliance with security standards because 13 of its surveillance cameras are not working.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and ports police chief Jordan Lee Kosam asked the agency's board to immediately allocate funding to replace the defective cameras during a special meeting Friday.

CPA officials refused to disclose the total number of surveillance cameras installed at the airport, citing security concerns. However, they admitted that with 13 non-functioning cameras, security at the airport is at risk.

"This issue is time-sensitive because we're talking about CPA's non-compliance with the security standards. We were already warned by the Transportation Security Administration on this matter…and if we will not address it right away, CPA will be fined," said Deleon Guerrero to the board.

The executive director admitted that the problem with the cameras has been in existence for some years but because the number of nonfunctioning cameras continues to increase, it brings a serious risk to the airport's security operation.

"When you have 13 cameras down this means it didn't happen yesterday. That's why I am pressing that it (replacement) gets done right away because it's a serious matter and it concerns security of our airport," he said, admitting that CPA at present cannot cover all the corners of the airport due to the lack of surveillance cameras.

According to Kosam, the cameras were down as a result of the power fluctuations in the previous months based on the inspection result conducted by CPA contractor Spectrum.

Kosam said the proposal to repair and replace the nonfunctioning cameras is necessary to continuously remain in compliance with TSA's approved airport security program.

Saipan Tribune learned that fines for such violations range from $5,000 to $30,000 depending on the TSA's findings.

Due to the urgency of the situation, the board authorized Deleon Guerrero to get three quotations for the needed cameras at the airport.

The cost involves over $24,000 and doesn't need the board's approval or the issuance of a request for proposal. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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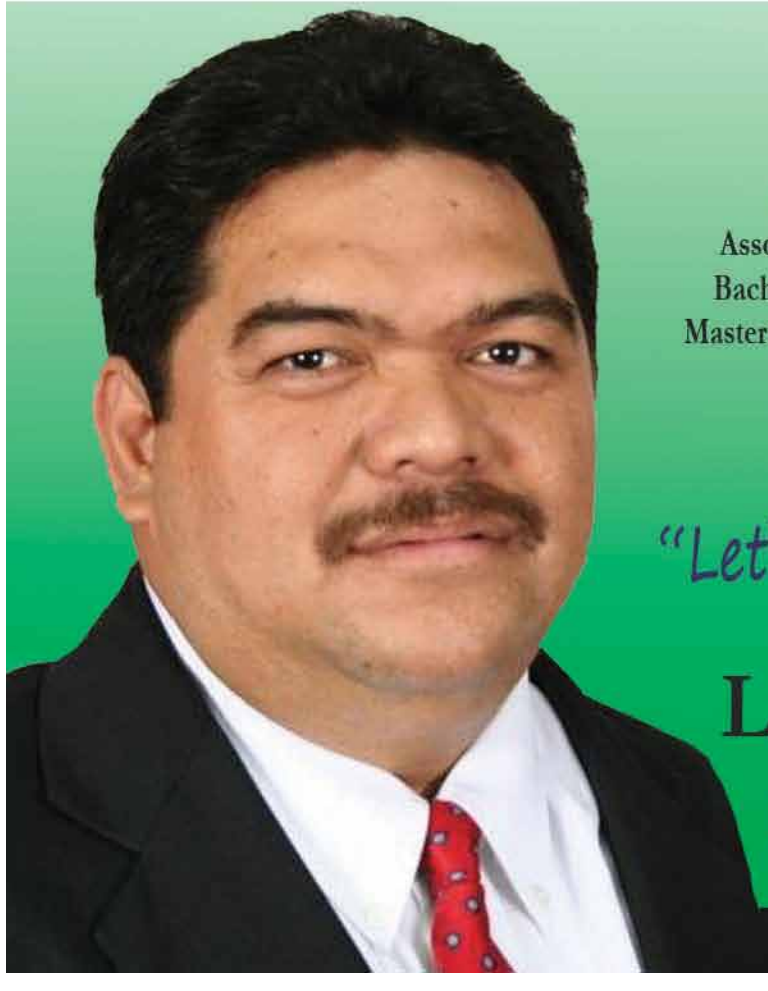

Education

Graduate, Marianas High School
Graduate, CNMI Police Academy, 8th Cycle
Associate of Arts Degree, Northern Marianas College
Bachelor's Degree in History, San Jose State University
Masters Degree in Public Administration, Seattle University
Law Degree, Gonzaga University

Experience

Attorney-at-Law, Private Practice
Floor Leader, 16th CNMI Legislature
Instructor, Northern Marianas College

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Results of GAO wage study at SHRM meeting

The topic for Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) CNMI Chapter's October general membership lunch meeting this Wednesday, Oct. 20, is entitled "Results of the General Accounting Office Wage Study for the CNMI."

It will be presented by visiting U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) officials including Pedro Almoguera, senior economist; Marissa Jones, senior analyst; and Nalylee Padilla, analyst. The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club' Charley's Cabaret from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the impact that the last three minimum wage increases have had on the CNMI economy and average annual earnings for CNMI employees.

In 2007, the U.S. enacted a law incrementally raising the minimum wage in the CNMI. The law applied the first $.50 per hour increase in July 2007 and mandated additional increases each subsequent year until the CNMI minimum wage reaches the U. S. minimum wage of $7.25 per hour in 2015. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) requires that the GAO report annually on the impact of minimum wage increases in the CNMI.

The GAO presentation will provide attendees the opportunity to:

1. Find out how the GAO conducted the study;
2. Understand the impact the minimum wage increases have had on the CNMI economy since inception in 2007;
3. Learn about the recent decision made by the U. S. President and Congress regarding next year's scheduled increase;
4. Realize what the GAO predicts the impact of future minimum wage increases may have on the CNMI economy;
5. Get a copy of the minimum wage report for the CNMI; and
6. Provide feedback to GAO representatives that can be incorporated into the next annual impact report.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero (SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president) at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com.

Reserve your seat by calling Deleon Guerrero at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 18, 1999

Finance: 'We're not holding off rebates'

The Department of Finance on Friday assured taxpayers anew of timely payment of rebates and refunds by the government amid speculations that it is intentionally delaying release of the checks due to lack of funds. In a statement, finance officials said over 28,000 taxpayers have already received their rebates amounting to nearly $20 million since last month when the Division of Revenue and Taxation mailed out the first batch of checks. Another group of 3,000 recipients are expected to have their checks this week, which were sent out by the division last Friday, according to the department. The statement was issued by DOF to quash speculations that the department sent notices to taxpayers regarding deficiencies in their income tax returns in a deliberate attempt to hold off payment of rebates and refunds.

PCB contamination spreads to Lower Base

A recent study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers revealed that the contamination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) has spread to the Lower Base area close to the cemetery. Due to these findings, the Division of Environmental Quality and representatives from the various federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry as well as the U.S. Army Corps will discuss the issue of toxicology and human health risks of PCBs. "We will wait for the federal government's answers because even the clean up will depend on the results of the public meeting," said DEQ Director Ike Cabrera. He said both the CNMI and federal governments must address the issue immediately to protect the health of the community.

Oct. 18, 2000

Agricultural land eyed for Kagman High School

House leaders have expedited moves to relocate the construction site of the proposed Kagman High School, requesting Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to set aside another public land for the school project. The House Committee on Education last week asked the governor to redesignate public land lot 018-G-03, an agricultural area, to the Public School System. The site is currently designated to the Division of Public Lands. According to legislators, the proposed site for the high school adjacent to an archaeological site and surrounded by homesteads on three sides is "too small" for a senior high campus which is projected to accommodate some 600 students.

DEQ wants legal counsel replaced

Amid the widening rift between Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson and Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio Cabrera, the DEQ Chief yesterday asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to assign another lawyer to the agency that will provide them legal advice on environmental issues. In a meeting with the governor, Mr. Cabrera said Mr. Murphy, who works as part-time legal counsel for DEQ, has already caused delays in the issuance of an administrative order and drafting of regulations. The administrative order was supposed to be issued to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the overflow of sewerline to the lagoon but has been on hold for six months while a draft regulation on solid waste has been pending for two weeks now.

Oct. 18, 2001

Verizon urged to confer with telecom panel

Despite reports that Verizon Pacifica will soon be pulling up stakes from the CNMI, Senate President Paul A. Manglona still insists that the telecommunications giant should still sit down with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission to iron out any perceived kinks in Public Law 12-39. "We're saying that they [Verizon] should sit down with Commission. They should work with Commission in going over Public Law 12-39-provision by provision, section by section-because we're not going to repeal this thing," said Manglona. The Senate President promised that the Senate will support whatever Verizon and the Commission agree on.

Additional money eyed from seaport expansion

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is hoping to develop the islands' seaport facilities as Micronesia's transshipment hub, in efforts to help the CNMI weather hard economic times. CPA officials laid down this plan during a meeting with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, where they sought the governor's assistance in realizing the agency's expansion program. Its expansion plan seeks to generate additional revenues both for the CPA and the CNMI, in general, without straining shipping-related businesses.

Proceeds from Pinktober Concert turned over to CCA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café presented a check worth $1,562 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association in a brief ceremony last Oct. 14.

The amount was CCA's allocation from the ticket sales of the successful 2010 Pinktober Concert on Oct. 10.

The 2010 Pinktober Concert gathered breast cancer survivors and advocates who wore pink ribbons and bracelets as they enjoyed a night of fun, live music, a silent auction, and lots of raffle prizes for a good cause.

The fundraising concert raised $2,216 from ticket sales.

Hard Rock operations manager Reynaldo Perez handed the check to CCA officers led by president Alex Sablan on Thursday night.

"We thank the community for this year's successful Pinktober event. We're planning to have another event like this for next year," Perez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Perez said the Pinktober Concert on Saipan will be featured in Hard Rock International's magazine that highlights all Pinktober concerts and other events around the world in celebration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Aside from the check, Perez also presented a Hard Rock guitar-shaped chocolate cake for the organization to celebrate the success of the event.

Program manager Tina Sablan expressed appreciation to Hard Rock Café, all sponsors, performers, and volunteers of the 2010 Pinktober concert.

"The check we received will go a long way toward just supporting our patient services programs and our cancer outreach programs to promote cancer prevention and screening. We look forward to next year's Pinktober concert," she said.

Established in 2003, CCA is a nonprofit, non-government cancer support organization for the CNMI.

CCA engages in cancer awareness and education, provides patient support and services and serves as the liaison for cancer matters in the Commonwealth and the region.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Hard Rock operations manager Reynaldo Perez, third from right, presents a check in the amount of $1,562 to the officers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association on Oct. 14. The amount was raised from the ticket sales for the 2010 Pinktober Concert last Oct. 10. From left, program manager Tina Sablan, Nora Sablan, president Alex Sablan, Perez, vice president Bud White, and senior advisor Dr. Jack Hardy.

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DOI's Babauta to host Forum on Economic and Labor Development

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta announced the convening of the Forum on Economic and Labor Development (FELD) to discuss a Technical Assistance program sanctioned by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (CNRA) in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The CNRA authorizes the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the CNMI government, the Departments of Commerce and Labor, and members of the private sector, to establish a Technical Assistance program to promote the growth and diversification of the CNMI economy, the hiring of U.S.-eligible workers and the recruiting and training for jobs in the main industries.

"I believe that we can design technical assistance that will help creatively address the issues faced by employers and employees alike," said Assistant Secretary Babauta. "This forum will be the opportunity for the people of the Commonwealth to have an influence in the future of the territory's economy as well as the employment outlook for U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents," added Babauta.

The forum will be held on Nov. 9 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan from 8am to 4pm. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-001

ADDENDUM NO. 3
October 13, 2010

Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-IFB-11-001:

BID CLOSING DATE:

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-001, Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the complete Bid shall also be sent by email or through compact disks (CD/DVD), to reach the office of procurement at the same time of the bid closing. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CST) local time on **October 18, 2010** to Mr. Mannny B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement and Supply Manager, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. William Sword, Technical Manager for Oil, Power Generation - sword.william@gmail.com; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power Generation venu@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE U. MALAE
Acting Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB11-GOV-007

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMIWater Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Conduct Construction Survey and Staking.
- Construct Permanent and Temporary Erosion Control measures.
- Perform Earthwork and Site Utilities.
- Install Air Relief Valve, Flush Hydrant, Fire Hydrant, fittings, Water System Booster Pump Stations and connections to water mains at various locations.
- Install 6,100 linear feet of 8" diameter PVC C900 distribution line, 70 linear feet of, 6" diameter PVC C900 distribution line, 4,410 linear feet of 4"diameter PVC C900 distribution line, and 1,070 linear feet of 2" diameter PVC C900 distribution line including Gate Valves and their connection to the Main Waterline.
- Modification of Existing Water Supply Pipes and other incidentals to complete the work per plans and specifications.
- Chlorination/Washing and Testing of New Waterlines.
- Reconstruction of Asphalt Pavement.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after October 18, 2010 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on November 2, 2010, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the Pre- Bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to **Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager**, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on November 1, 2010.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB10-GOV-007".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time November 17, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time November 17, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 17, 2010, and must be received no later than November 29, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, November 30, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on November 18, 2010.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial Herman S. Sablan
Governor and Contracting Officer Director, Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 248

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Ban menthol in cigarettes

Other flavors have been banned but not menthol. The reason? Menthol cigarettes are highly profitable for cigarette companies. It's time to end the charade.

More than a year after candy, clove and fruit flavors were banned in cigarettes, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is weighing whether to do the same to menthol.

It's easy to understand why the law that gave the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco also forbade so many types of flavored cigarettes. Studies show that they attract young people to smoking and keep them inhaling by disguising the otherwise harsh taste and sensation in the mouth and throat. But in that case, why didn't the law also ban menthol, by far the most popular flavoring for cigarettes? Precisely because they're so popular. Menthol brands account for about a quarter of U.S. cigarette sales; once people start with menthol, moreover, they are unlikely to switch to an unflavored brand. In other words, a ban on mentholated cigarettes has a good chance of cutting into smoking rates — and tobacco industry profits.

Menthol also is the preferred cigarette flavoring among African American smokers, and advertising has been specifically targeted to this demographic. Nearly three-fourths of African American smokers buy menthol brands.

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In meetings last week, an FDA advisory committee heard about studies showing that advertisements for mentholated cigarettes were especially common in publications marketed to young people and on billboards in low-income communities. UC San Francisco researchers who had pored through industry documents said company surveys found that smokers wrongly perceived menthol cigarettes to be "light" and therefore less harmful, that they especially appealed to young people, and that the minty taste cools the harshness of cigarette smoke. Separately, a 2009 study found that smokers were able to quit regular cigarettes more easily than mentholated ones.

The FDA's authority over cigarettes is more complicated than its other regulatory duties, just as our society's attitude toward smoking is more divided than its view of, say, dangerous pharmaceuticals or unsafe food practices. Americans don't particularly want a nanny state that tells its citizens whether they may or may not smoke, yet it is also clear that smoking is an addictive and dangerous habit with little to recommend it. If cigarettes were being proposed today as a new drug to treat stress, they would never pass FDA muster. But the law that gave the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco does not allow the agency to ban it. In the interests of public health, and especially to protect young people, it can prohibit certain additives — such as menthol — and can limit, but not ban, nicotine.

The tobacco industry points out that, as far as anyone knows, mentholated cigarettes are no worse for smokers' health than regular cigarettes. That's true, but the same is true of other flavored cigarettes. There is just as much reason — and more — to ban menthol as to ban cherry or chocolate flavoring in cigarettes.

Menthol cigarettes make it easier to get started on a health-wrecking habit, and harder to end it. The reason we have waited this long for a ban on mentholated cigarettes isn't that menthol is inherently different from candy flavoring, but that it has been far more profitable for tobacco companies.

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Are we encouraging our youth to fill needed jobs?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Believe it or not it has started. It is virtually impossible to bring in a nonresident worker from off-island. I recently tried and was told that after paying over $2,000 maybe in six months I may expect a reply. So let's stop wishing for more nonresident workers. That is a page from the past.

Can you imagine the confusion beginning next November 2011, when the umbrella over the nonresident workers gets holes in it? Can you imagine the total chaos in December 2014, when it is expected that all nonresident workers are expected to go home? Despite all of this, are we encouraging our youth to train for those upcoming jobs? Remember the ides of Dec. 31, 2014!

Let's discuss some of the various professions we should be encouraging our youth to investigate. One of my first choices is to encourage our young people to go into nursing. I recently heard that over 70 percent of the nurses at the CHC are nonresident. Do we have any local nurses on Tinian and Rota? What is keeping our young people from studying nursing?

According to an annual Gallup survey, **nursing** consistently rates as the most honest and ethical profession in the United States. Its pay is rising faster than nearly every other job category, both for local and global demand. Yet are we encouraging our young people to enter this noble profession? Are we willing to pay them the salary they deserve? How many young people are being encouraged to enter the field of medicine? Are we encouraging young men and women to become doctors or specialists in medicine? If not, why aren't we encouraging them?

Image! The Philippines in 2010 graduated over 32,000 young men and women from nursing and medical schools? Do they know something more than we do?

Consider all the nonresident bookkeepers and accountants that are currently employed in the private sector. What will the businesses do when these workers leave? Yet the NMC graduates quite a few annually. Where do they go to work—in government? Shouldn't we be motivating these young accountants to enter the private sector? Otherwise won't we be at a loss in a few years? Shouldn't the government and the Chamber of Commerce and the Public School System be encouraging young men and women to study the needed skills?

Are we teaching our people to become entrepreneurs? We need them to start businesses or to manage businesses. How many of our young people are going into teaching? Every year we have to scout overseas for teachers. Yet teaching is a noble profession and a very personal rewarding vocation.

How many of our youth are considering farming as a profession? With the departure of our nonresident workers, we will have a strong need for our own people to plow and cultivate our farms. Do we have many of our people seriously interested in tourism as a profession? Tourism is one of our most important industries; yet we do not stress working in it as a serious profession. Are we leaving this industry entirely up to outside tour agents?

I could go on rambling about all the various trades and professions we should be motivating our young people to enter. But instead we are taking a nonchalant attitude. If they do or don't who cares? This attitude must stop.

We have hit rock bottom. Our economy is extremely depressed with little hope for improvement for a long time. Always the complaint is that there is never enough money. But that is not necessarily true. However the main problem is with us and our attitude. Regardless how much money we have, unless we learn to utilize it wisely, it will never be enough. As insulting as it may seem, I will be blunt and brutal in the next few paragraphs in the hope we will wake up and correct ourselves.

For years we have been feeding off the largess of the United States. We have received over a billion dollars and continue to receive over a hundred million dollars yearly. Yet it is not enough. What are doing to earn some of this money ourselves by our own efforts?

We have brought in nonresident workers to work in our industries and businesses. They even work in our homes as maids. We refuse to learn various trades and professions, leaving that to imported labor. What are we doing to help ourselves? Why can't we learn these trades ourselves?

We seek out investors and strike deals with them. Then when they begin to succeed, we change the rules on them. As a result they leave. What are we doing to seek our own investment money and do the same operations as they do? Can't we operate hotels and other businesses? Where are the joint ventures that should have taken place to make sure that money stays here and our local people have jobs?

I have searched and searched for something that gives us some creditability and hope to rescue ourselves. But alas, I cannot find much to prove that we are capable of self-sufficiency. Please help me find something that shows that we are capable of helping ourselves. Honestly, I don't want to complain, so help me understand. What have we done or are doing to become self-supporting?

The majority of us who are lucky to know someone that can get us a government job flock to it regardless of what it is. The rest of us jam the food stamp office pleading poverty. But now that government jobs have been shown for what they are (a pool of hopeless and futile dead-end jobs), we are crying that our work hours are being cut, our wages reduced. Will we wake up and see that we have

See ARE WE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Homhum Antes De Manana

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Estaba un' saina gi fina' nuhuñg sige hahassu i didog na chinatsagaña. Ha faisen maisague: "Kao presisu na taiguine haani-hu yan famaguon-hu?"

I kuestion satton na finaisen gi kada saina. Sige ta dibina hafa mamamaila' yan kau guaha kampu para ta soda' mas yanu na plaset para i famaguonta.

Kontodu guahu hana' chatsaga hinasoghu i manadan familia ni man-hinehegse didog na chinatsaga pagu siha na tiempu.

Ayu mas didog i suppottasion famaguon ni man-eskuekuela deste Guam, Hawaii yan America. Amanu 'nai para ta sodae' fondu para apas eskuela, fanliheñg niha yan otru nesessidat? Inipus makat na kontrariu!

Sige mona, ha totpe hit apas guma familia, sasyan, yan otru siha obligasion. Ni taimanu birata ni asuntu, i resutta parehu gi uttimu besis--seru! Un' atan kau siña hau mañoda otru chochu para un' kubre obligasion-mu. Lau taya' chochu' gi bandan bisnis.

Kontodu lañget yan sasalaguan ta upos lau taya' fina fanliheñg 'nai para tafan deskansan ñaihon. Apenas mampos esperansa gi katkuet birada. Uttimoña man-ñgaha' hit hulu gi Saina man-mangagau ayudu.

Magahet na tiempon eskases sa' ni manu hit guatu taya' appottunidat para ta sodae' kubren tinahoñg pagamientota regulat. Esta hana' chaleg-yu un' chetluhu 'nai ha rikononose hagas tinanomña siha gi gualu. Ilegña: "Esta mofona i prefektu dueñu mañgosecha ke guahu". Estague' na eskalera 'nai man-gaige i chechu satbahe.

I pineblen i tanu pagu (mediu diskuidon i man-ma'gasta) ha funas sensian konfiansa gi plumaneneha man-na'halom fiñkas guine pot bisnis. Hinegse este 'nai sige mas maribaha i numeron bisita para Marianas ginen Japon yan otru lugat siha giya Asia. Mas pininu i industrian turista 'nai mas menos i numeron ruplanu ni man-hahalom ginen oriyata siha.

Lau namatman este sa' mientras sige hit man-mañogñog, sige Guam ha adelanta todu kinalamteña gi bandan industrian turista. Parehu lugat 'nai man-gaige hit. I unu mafondu, i otru kahulu botiña gi hilu tasi. Hafa na taiguine masusede lau ti chagu Guam yan iya Marianas? Ai bidadaña i kaddun tolañg gi amotsan taloane.

Makat na kontrariu tafafana' ya soluke siña ta chule' tatte i $900 miyon pesus ni malagnos guine gi mediu nobenta siha na sakan, mas menos appottunidat para tautau-ta gi katkuet kinalamten. Siempre mas magahet i kantan amiguhu Kevin Atalig, "...chochu maigu, ayu 'nai un' kahulu, fan espiha picnic yan barbecue". Ai lastima lau paraisu!

■■■

Buente hagas hayuña taftaf man-mata, munalagu kafe, sige chumupa, dispues ha kamyu i niyog para i na'manog yan babue. Ha rikonose tinanomña ya sige ha rega. Humanao tatte gi kusina ya ha gimen talu un' pusuelon kafe miengras ha sosopla chipaña.

Ha tupa 'nos kuantos napa', fioles yan gulusina para an' mattu i hagaña antes de taloane. Chinililie' mantension, dispues ha birague i patgon para iya siha. Gi lapupueñge, ha bisita halom talu i amku. Man-nalagu fina sena antes de u bira siha para i gima. Dispues man-konbetsasion un' ratu.

Sumen mañge' na dinaña gi minachom atdao maseha hilu pineble lau riku bendision, hinimidde yan inafamauleg gi entalu familia. Abiba kutturan natibu!

■■■

Humahanau dos saki para iya siha un' chatagmag 'nai mahuñgog buruka gi halom simienteyu. 'Nai humihot i dos, malie' un' amku sige ha acha i sinset kontra i lapida ya esta chumachatfinu. Mafaisen hafa bidadaña. Ilegña i amku: "Hu sinseset este para bai' na dinanche naan-hu sa' esta mas ke trenta años deste ke lache madiletraña i apoyiduhu". Ai de dios mabidaña i amku.

Letter to the Editor

It's about fairness

'Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you.'—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

"Be fair." Growing up, that was a statement I am sure we all heard quite often. Between my parents and my teachers, it was told to me so often that it is strongly ingrained into my psyche.

Trying to teach children about fairness is no easy task; just ask my parents. "Why does Lynn get a bigger portion?" "How come Gloria gets to stay up and I have to go to bed early?" These are only two of seven million questions I bombarded my parents with while growing up. Amazing how they tried to instill fairness in their children while almost losing their patience in the process.

Over time and through life's valuable lessons, the concept of fairness eventually sank in, in spite of those who tried to muddle this all-important virtue with comments like, "Hey kid, take all you can, because life ain't fair!" I am fortunate that I had persistent parents and teachers who never gave up on me.

Yes, life is not fair. That is certain. But that doesn't mean we must abandon treating people with fairness. If anything, we should work harder to ensure fairness in everything we do.

So why am I writing about fairness? Because it is something that seems to be sorely missing in the Fitial administration these days.

I was disheartened to find out that Management Analysis, Inc. landed a $300,000 contract to perform desk audits for DCCA and DPS. Of course, we all found out later that Lynn Knight worked for MAI, but hey, that's just a coincidence, right?

While desk audits are definitely needed for our government agencies, where was the RFP for these desk audits? I never read about them. None of my friends did either. To add insult to injury, Fitial's PIO Angel Demapan says that this desk audit is not binding and that the administration doesn't have to use it. Okay Angel, so what was this urgent need to do the desk audit in the first place? This makes about as much sense as a doctor performing a biopsy to see if a person's tumor is malignant or benign, only to tell the patient later that the biopsy didn't really matter. For $300,000, you darn well better follow the desk audit! We could have hired two new doctors up at CHC for that amount! It sure would have been nice if some local companies here in the CNMI had an opportunity to bid for the desk audits. To say that there are no local companies in the CNMI who could perform a desk audit is quite insulting.

While I was disheartened by MAI's desk audit contract, I was disgusted and agitated by a whopping $392,000 sole-source contract awarded to Michael Ada. A few days earlier, Ada said he was resigning from his post as Commerce Secretary because he wanted to concentrate on his doctorate. Within a few days, before the ink on the contract could even dry, we find out that Ada bagged a sole-source contract worth nearly $400,000 to administer ARRA funding for 18 months.

So let me get this straight. Michael Ada quits his job so he will have adequate time to focus on getting his doctorate. Yet, somehow, he will now find time to administer ARRA funding while still going to school. Make up your mind, Mike! You're too busy to work as Commerce Secretary, but you are not too busy to administer ARRA funding? Hmmmm. Perhaps you will only be putting in part-time hours as the ARRA administrator? Wow, that's a pretty nice contract if that is the case. I'd love to get a $400,000 contract to work part-time. I hope you are hiring, because I know a bunch of people who just got a 25 percent pay cut and are struggling to pay their CUC bill and put food on the table while you just more than quadrupled your former salary as Commerce secretary. Way to go, Mike! Someone asked me yesterday when this news came out, "How does Mike Ada sleep at night?" I replied, "With this new fat sole-source contract, very comfortably." It seems Michael Ada just won the lottery. However, there was one major difference in the lottery he won: there was only one ticket in the lottery, and he was holding it the entire time.

Here are a few questions that need to be answered with regard to Mike Ada's sole-source contract to administer ARRA funding:

1. How long has Michael Ada's company, Integrated Professional Solutions, been in business? How many employees does he have? How much experience does his company have?

2. Are there other businesses in the CNMI and within the United States that could have qualified to administer ARRA funding for the CNMI? If yes, why weren't they allowed to respond to an RFP? Could another company have done the same work for less?

3. Is there a conflict of interest with this contract? Was this contract created specifically with Michael Ada in mind? Is there anything here that is unethical or illegal?

4. Why can't the Deputy Secretary of Commerce and the Commerce employees work together to administer the ARRA funding? Why can't Governor Fitial hire a new Commerce Secretary to administer the ARRA funding? Why can't Ada be contracted for two months to train Commerce employees on how to administer ARRA funding?

5. Where is OPA in all of this? How about the Attorney General's Office? Will there be an investigation by OPA and the Attorney General?

6. Can you sole-source contracts with ARRA funding? Wasn't the purpose of ARRA funding to stimulate local businesses and small businesses? Didn't President Obama want to "spread the wealth?" By sole-sourcing, doesn't this bypass local procurement procedures for amounts over $10,000?

These are six questions I came up with in only five minutes, but I am sure there are other people in our community who could ask even better questions.

The major concern is not about the qualifications and experience of MAI or Michael Ada. But everyone is questioning the fairness and integrity of these two contracts, and they have every right to do so. The bottom line? Sole-sourcing eliminates fairness and integrity.

I am sure that Fitial and his underlings will have an excuse for these contracts, just like they have an excuse for the rest of their questionable actions.

In closing, I sincerely hope and pray that the CNMI will one day see a better future. But it will not happen with an administration that repeatedly ignores guidelines and procedures aimed at fairness.

We can do better. And we deserve better. However, without a system of fairness and without proper checks and balances mixed in with proper punishment, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes that have plagued our government and cheated our people out of a prosperous future.

May God bless the good people of the Commonwealth.

Ed Propst
Dandan

ARE WE

From Page 10

been duped by lies and trickery?

Here is a quote from Singapore's former Prime Minister Kuan Lee:

"Singapore's success was due to the ability and industry of our young people, willing and eager to learn, prepared to work hard and pay their way in the world, finding pride and pleasure in constructive endeavor….There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work hard to make it better."

Yet Singapore was a British colony from 1946 to 1959, when it became independent. It had no benefactors, no money, no natural resources, and an almost illiterate population. Though only 225 square miles in size, it has become a major economic power in Asia. Singapore has one of the world's biggest and busiest ports.

What a great modern day success story. A true from rags to riches story. How did they do it? Can't we at least try to emulate them? Even if we come close or fail, we can be proud that we sincerely tried.

But guess what? There are refreshing stories to be told. Many of you have mentioned to me that you are now growing vegetables and flowers in your backyards. And enjoying it. Some of you have enrolled in NMTI to learn a trade. Some of you are going back to school to improve your skills and get a higher degree. Others are seriously planning to start their own business. Hooray to you all! May God bless you. You have seized the day and are creating your own future.

Remember if you want to discuss with me any of your plans, please call me at 287-8310 or email me at tonypell@pticom.com. I would immensely enjoy talking with you about your future.

Here is a strong plea to all our leaders, from the governor down to the Legislature, please motivate us to rise above our depression. We are intelligent and capable of work, but we need an impetus to start us. Encourage our youth to learn the skills and professions that will help our beloved CNMI grow and create a harmonious social life. We can and must take up the challenge. This is our country and most of all, this is our life!

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

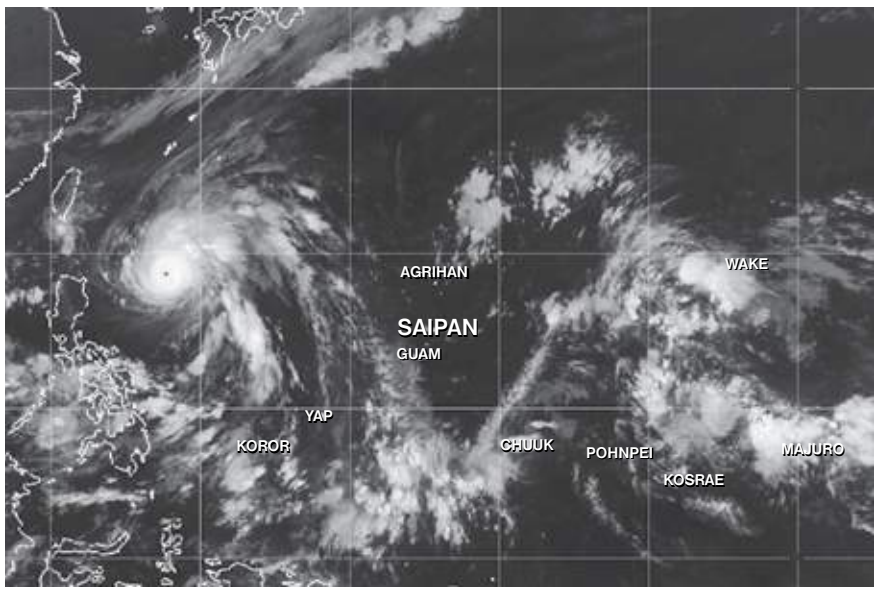
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲60	▼40
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼68
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Los Angeles	Showers	▲66	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Osaka	Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Rome	Rain	▲65	▼50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼41
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲61	▼47
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲68	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Megi (15W) is centered north-northwest of Yap at 19N130E. Megi has maximum sustained winds of 120 mph and is moving west-northwest at 15 mph. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the typhoon between 8N and 24N from 130E to 139E. For more information on Typhoon Megi, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header wtpq31 pgum and jtwc bulletins under wmo header wtpn31 pgtw. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 4N142E to end west of Wake Island at 19N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of the trough axis and between 15N and 20N from 164E to 171E. This includes Chuuk and Wake island. An upper-level low northeast of the Marianas centered near 18N153E is triggering a few thunderstorms between 14N and 25N from 147E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kwajalein and northeast of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 10N163E to 7N169E and within 150 miles of a line from 9N176E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
5:07 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:45 PM	2:04 AM
Tuesday	3:20 PM	2:51 AM
Wednesday	3:55 PM	3:37 AM
Thursday	4:31 PM	4:23 AM
Friday	5:08 PM	5:11 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
CO9316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
CO9603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/CO596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Fossil fuel future

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

I went to the continental US of A after Route 66 was pulled out regular TV broadcast, and though the episodes were re-broadcast to my age group that drooled over driving the macho sexy Chevy Corvette across sorority row, I was a working student on limited scholarship. My social life was limited to jostling with the hired help in the kitchen (all black) and the token foreign students who staffed the shelves of the university library.

I had a picture once of the Jaguar XJ12 when I thought I might buckle down and start earning big money, but I never had the inclination nor the skill to create wealth, nor to drive let alone own one of those sleek autos out of the display room. In fact, I still have difficulty spelling a Merz properly. There is no way I will ever be close to a Ferrari 599 GTB, or a Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren, or the Audi R8 V10, even if I suddenly win the highball lottery of NYC (which is not likely since I never buy a ticket!).

The case of fossil fuel that powers the engines of the above-mentioned vehicles is, however, an unavoidable concern. have since taken Bill McKibben's spelling of the planet as Eaarth from his highly recommended book of the same title, to indicate that a radical change has affected the environment, a consequences of the things we take for granted like automobiles in the aftermath of civilization's industrial revolution.

High school students learn of the 18th century invention of the steam engine, an incredible device that accelerated the performance of anything requiring repetitive movements like the textile factories of England. When in 1989 I was shown China's silk factories outside of Shanghai, I marveled at the meticulous and labor-intensive efforts in making those expensive and exquisite silk fabrics that caught the fancy of royal Europe after Marco Polo's return. A rogue employee did show me the other factory where an IBM machine controlled a more efficient production.

Fossil fuel came in handy to fire up the steam engine, first with coal, which at the time appeared seam-endless in England before Scot-Irish kids had to tunnel to get them. Petroleum products then came in liquid and gaseous forms, and the Texas boom became America's culture team (preceded by New England Puritans and the Deep South Plantation Slaves). There are more flights from Denver to Calgary than there are from Calgary to Ottawa because the Canuck Alberta cowboys have more affinity to the range rovers of the Texas panhandle. The axis from Houston to Edmonton across the Rockies wails to the same country-western silver steel-string guitar, save the brew south ways is served on low-lit rooms while the ale among their northern line-dancing cousins is poured in communal well-lit pubs and saloons.

In that axis, fossil fuel is their resource, and energy production their business. Fuel was cheap in Dallas when I was going to school that the downtown skyline stayed lit 24 hours. I never bought the explanation that it was cheaper to keep the lights on than it switching the system on and off.

America is addicted to oil, both its consumption and control, and Texas is mighty proud. Since its discovery in Pennsylvania in mid-1800s, humankind had translated human BTU into infinitesimal proportions. Best human effort to produce a minute's worth of light takes six hours what a machine does for a fraction of a millisecond. In 1965, it took me 20 days to reach San Francisco from Manila on an efficient 20-knot per hour ship; a half-day flight will traverse the same distance today, and that's on the slow, heavy commercial air flight.

So there is no denying that cheap fossil fuel has been a boon to humankind, and we are not about to foist guilt feelings on anyone for its use, or even on those who made bundles of money in its extraction and trade. But we now know that like any business, the cost analysis is deficient in one area—the cost on the environment. Carbon emission as a consequence of fossil fuel use is like cigarette smoking to cancer. When we started costing the consequences and saw facts our business bottom lines did not like to see, we went into massive denial. Up to now, there are still people who refuse to see that climate warming is a consequence of the accumulated emissions that retain solar heat in the environment, melting the polar caps and putting additional water into our oceans with consequences on the weather we are now just beginning to suspect are not pleasant.

Extraction, production and distribution are all what our business bottom lines see. Now, Andrew Bacevich, a retired career Army officer and university professor on international relations, argues that the nation is in a state of perpetual war over our desire to control the oil reserves of the planet. Hidden underneath the Rockies is the world's biggest oil reserve but extracting it would be at a higher cost than utilizing those wells in other parts of the world. The political and cultural consequence on our addiction to oil is not factored when figuring the actual cost of utilizing fossil fuel.

This is not a good Monday morning thought to accompany our breakfast coffee, but the threshold of planetary resiliency might be past midnight, peak oil passing, and my riding a bike not working out well with the La Niña rains in the Marianas. Gee, we can't even rely on CUC to deliver power, Mr. V, and you want us to think fossil fuel? Yup, and we'd better start talking seriously about it, too, pardner! Anyone has a 12-step plan on oil addiction?

Letter to the Editor

On My Mind

Just a little more than two weeks remain before voters will be asked to vote not only for the CNMI non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress, but also on three amendments to the CNMI Constitution. While access to information by and about the candidates has been plentiful, the same is not true in regard to the three proposed amendments. The CNMI Attorney General's office provided brief statements in one issue of one of the local newspapers (the *Saipan Tribune's* 10/08 issue); and while there is said to be information going out over the radio and TV and via brochures and hand-outs—thanks to the efforts of Northern Marianas College Department Chair Sam McPhetres' Social Issues class—it is not readily accessible, nor is it any more than was contained in the original AG descriptions.

Herewith, then, an attempt to fill in some of the holes. All three proposals are labeled House Legislative Initiatives because they became proposed amendments through the HLI process prescribed in the Constitution. An amendment may also be proposed through popular initiative or through a constitutional convention.

House Legislative Initiative 16-3 would amend Article III, Section 20 of the CNMI Constitution by adding a new section "c" and reads: "**The Legislature shall not increase benefits until all government obligations to the retirement system have been satisfied or the system is fully funded. Provided further that no law shall be enacted by the Legislature that will create an unfunded liability to the retirement system**."

According to the text of the initiative, "*The purpose of this initiative is to prohibit future benefit increases unless and until: a) the Commonwealth government satisfies its liabilities to the Retirement Fund, or b) the Fund is fully funded. This action is taken in furtherance of providing long term stability to a resource upon which so many families in the CNMI depend*."

This means that the Legislature cannot pass a law giving more benefits to any retiree unless either all government obligations owed the Retirement Fund have been fully paid, or the added benefits will not incur an unfunded liability—that is, create an obligation the Fund can not meet from its budget at that time.

The AG's office lists as argument against the proposed amendment the "either-or" aspect of the proposal—that only one of those conditions has to be met, but not both. Yet the initiative does state that "no law shall be enacted by the Legislature that will create an unfunded liability to the retirement system," so it's not quite clear what the concern is. The AG statement also notes that the initiative doesn't define what "satisfying government obligations" means, nor does it provide for "what if" situations when benefits may need to be adjusted or increased—neither of which seem all that convincing.

On the other hand, this initiative would appear to prohibit the legislature from awarding additional retirement benefits to government employees without sufficient funding being in place, which, in turn, would protect the Retirement Fund from incurring further unfunded liabilities - both desirable outcomes.

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 would amend Article IX, Section 5(g) of the CNMI Constitution by inserting the bolded provision shown below into existing text, so that the section would read "(g) The corporation shall receive all moneys from the public lands except those from lands in which freehold interest has been transferred to another agency of government pursuant to section 5(b), and shall transfer these moneys after the end of the fiscal year to the Marianas Public Land Trust except that the corporation shall retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration and management, land surveying, homestead development, and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions; **provided further that the corporation shall be authorized to expend up to twenty percent of its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims as provided by law.** The annual budget of the corporation shall be submitted to the legislature for information purposes only."

According to the "Findings" included in the initiative, more than one hundred land compensation claimants are waiting to resolve their claims with the Commonwealth government. Their land has been taken for public purposes such as roads, highways, right of ways, ponding basins, and easements, yet owners have waited decades and not received just compensation. Many have died without ever being compensated. Moreover, several land claims have been settled but not actually paid by the government, because it lacks the funds to do so.

The initiative continues, "*...with the new language, the argument that the Constitution does not expressly allow for payment of judgments cannot be made, because it is the intent of this amendment to allow the Department of Public Lands to do precisely that.*"

Money from public land leases, etc., now goes to the Marianas Public Land Trust, which invests the money, and deposits the interest earned in the General Fund. Without any figures to indicate how much money the General Fund would lose by enacting this initiative, it is difficult to judge whether it should be passed or not, since the consequences are not at all clear. Additionally, the AG's office points out that while the initiative would permit DPL to use 20 percent of its income for compensating land owners, it does not require DPL to do so, making it unsure as to whether the initiative would even accomplish its intent.

House Legislative Initiative 17-1 would amend Article X of the CNMI Constitution by adding a new section 10, which reads: **Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature, the Commonwealth may issue pension obligation bonds, the cumulative amount of which shall not exceed the Commonwealth's actuarially determined unfunded accrued liability to the Retirement Fund. The net proceeds of each bond issuance shall be deposited and invested along with other monies in a defined benefit plan trust fund administered by the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund. The bonds issued under this section shall comply with Section 3 of this Article and shall be exempt from Section 4 of this Article**.

Article 10, Section 3, states that "Public debt may not be authorized or incurred without the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house of the legislature." *The bonds would have to comply with this provision.*

Article 10, Section 4, states that "Public indebtedness...may not be authorized in excess of ten percent of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real property within the Commonwealth. Public indebtedness may not be authorized for operating expenses of the Commonwealth government or its political subdivisions." *The bonds would NOT have to comply with this provision.*

This initiative does not, of itself, require that a bond be issued. It merely gives the Legislature permission to issue one. As the text of the initiative states, "*Before any such bonds are actually issued, the Commonwealth additionally must assess their feasibility. The feasibility of the bonds depends upon bond market conditions, prevailing interest rates, and other factors that may change over time*."

According to the text of the initiative it is clear that the bond would be issued by the CNMI government, not the Retirement Fund.

A question that has not been addressed in discussion of this proposal is why the government should borrow money (that is, float one or more bonds) to pay off its debt to the Retirement Fund when it would be far simpler to use the money that would go to the bond payments, and instead, to pay it directly to the Retirement Fund. At the very least, the government would save the interest it would have to pay on the money it borrowed. To be sure, the Retirement Fund would not get a lump sum payment as it would if a bond were issued and buyers for it found. But it's not clear that a lump sum payment is essential.

The more frequently asked questions: what are the chances of finding a buyer of the bonds in today's economy, given the CNMI's economic condition? What interest rate would be set? Where would the CNMI get the money to pay off the debt? Would the RF be able to invest well enough to earn more in interest than the bonds cost?

Both Retirement Fund personnel and the board of the Commonwealth Retirees Association are lobbying heavily for the passage of this initiative. Interestingly enough, this is the only initiative for which the AG did not provide both a "pro" and a "con" statement. Rather, it only spelled out the conditions for obtaining the bond.

It should be noted, moreover, that it would take some time—no estimates are given—to meet all the required procedures—it is not an instant solution to meeting the RF's income needs. Rather than looking to future solutions, the RF might better focus on the ongoing efforts to satisfy the court's judgment.

The full text of the three initiatives is available on the Election Commission's web site www.votecnmi.gov.mp. Unfortunately, its version cannot be cut and pasted. Many thanks to Claire Sablan, one of the Legislative Bureau's House Legislative Assistants, for providing me with copies I could cut and paste.

The Commonwealth Election Commission is scheduled to conduct a hearing on the three initiatives on Thursday, Oct. 21, from 5pm to 6:30pm at Northern Marianas College classroom D-1.

My take? Vote "yes" to House Legislative Initiative 16-13, and "no" to both HLI 16-18 and HLI 17-1.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag

TINIAN MAYOR APPEALS DECISION ON WRITE-OFF

CPA insists 'no forgiveness' on Tinian Dynasty debt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority remains firm in its decision not to forgive the $310,000 debt of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino despite appeals from Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Tinian Municipal Council chair Patrick A. Manglona.

"No forgiveness…that's still the board's position on the case of Dynasty," confirmed CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero Friday after the closed-door session where Tinian Dynasty's appeal was discussed.

Dela Cruz and Manglona said Tinian Dynasty is the only casino operator on the island and has been providing much needed local revenue, jobs, and service to the island the past 13 years.

"Tinian Dynasty has struggled financially but with the continued support of the current and past administrations, [it has] been able to survive and overcome most obstacles. We would like to acknowledge the assistance CPA has given to the company and ask for your continued support to help them resolve their outstanding debt with CPA," the two said in their letter to CPA.

The Tinian Dynasty, the operator of the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc., owes CPA $310,000 as a result of a case settlement in previous years.

Its owner wants to pay only a $100,000 one-time payment for these arrears asking to consider the current financial standing of the company.

Due to financial constraints, Tinian Dynasty suspended the operation of Tinian Express last year and wants to resume its operation this year.

However, potential investors will only come in when Tinian Express' "books" are cleared, according to Tinian Dynasty.

The board Friday gave Deleon Guerrero authority to negotiate with the company on new payment terms.

Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc.'s ferry service between Saipan and Tinian was suspended on March 16 citing the need for the vessel's repair and to comply with the American Bureau of Shipping's regulations. This resulted to Tinian residents and tourists relying solely on air transportation to travel to and from Tinian.

Masseuse nabbed last month, arrested anew for 'ice' trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_ delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A masseuse who was arrested last month for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice," was arrested again on Thursday afternoon in Dandan Homestead for the same charges.

Li Ping Zhou, 39, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance.

Zhuo, a Chinese national, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for her initial appearance.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $60,000 cash bail for Zhou's temporary release.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 20, 2010 at 9am.

Dective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that on Oct. 5, 2010, he received a call from a concerned citizen that he wants to assist the Drug Enforcement Task Force regarding the illegal drug problem in the CNMI.

Camacho said the concerned citizen disclosed that he is willing to assist the Task Force in conducting a monitored purchase of "ice" from a woman named Sister.

Camacho said using the concerned citizen, they were able to buy .40 gross grams of "ice" worth $100 from the suspect who was later identified as Zhou outside a store in Dandan last Friday, Oct. 8.

The detective said using the same concerned citizen, they were able to buy again .40 gross grams of "ice" worth $100 from Zhou on Wednesday at the same place.

The Task Force served the arrest warrant to Zhou at Dandan Homestead Thursday afternoon.

The Task Force then obtained a warrant to search the residence of the defendant and her vehicle.

Court documents did not indicate whether the task force was able to seize more evidence during the search.

Camacho said they arrested Zhou and another Chinese woman for trafficking "ice" on Sept. 3, 2010.

He said the Superior Court then temporarily released Zhou and the co-defendant after they posted $3,000 cash and $27,000 unsecured or appearance bond.

Golden Harvest achieves forensic victory

This school year's first Primary Grade Forensic Competition held last Oct. 9 at William Reyes Elementary School brought honor to Golden Harvest International School when students from kindergarten 4 to 4th grade proudly performed their best. Because of the hard work and determination of both teachers and students, Golden Harvest achieved victory by winning numerous awards in all events on all division.

Below is the list of PGFC winners from Golden Harvest:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students who took part in first Primary Grade Forensic Competition held last Oct. 9 at William Reyes Elementary School pose with their teachers.

K-2 DIVISION

■ **Dramatic Interpretation**
2nd Daphne Cruzat
3rd Faith Bocago
4th Hannah Lacap
5th John Isaac San Nicolas

■ **Humorous Interpretation**
1st Vincent Philip Salvador
3rd Devin Ross Ayuyu
4th Jude Litulumar
5th Robin Kyle Alvarez

■ **Duo**
1st Daphne Cruzat and Faith Bocago
4th Camry Drummond and Amber Sureta
5th Chariz Pasaylo and Jylon Sablan

■ **Choral speaking**
2nd Jewel Combinido, Hannah Lacap , Michelle Leon Guerrero, Kyla Raquel
4th Stephanie Flores, Sukey Wu, Yvonne Abustan
5th Arman Cabrera, Nathan Guanzing, Marlon Pineda, Jylon Sablan

■ **Choral speaking-C**
1st Devin Ross Ayuyu, John Isaac San Nicolas, Vincent Philip Salvador
2nd Sebastian Bernardo, Aaron Ignacio, Robin Kyle Alvarez, Raven John Francisco
5th Christian Daniel, Christine Caluya, Iver Jude Dimaun, Chareena Layugan

3-5 DIVISION

■ **Dramatic interpretation-B**
1st Joseph Yanto
2nd Marione Corpus
4th Mark Ira Galang

■ **Humorous interpretation**
2nd Joseph Yanto

■ **Duo-A**
2nd Mathew Leon Guerrero, Kris Angelo Talens

■ **Duo-C**
1st Mark Daniel Ibanez, Fernand Ramos,
2nd Davean Gonzales, Kennedy Vila

■ **Choral speaking-A**
2nd Marione Corpus, Mark Ira Galang, Davean Gonzales, Aaron Esquivel, Kennedy Vila

■ **Choral speaking-B**
5th Kris Angelo Talens, Mark Daniel Ibanez, Fernand Ramos

KOREAN SHOW IN NMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seven Korean comedians, actors, and musicians from MBC TV's "Sunday, Sunday Night – Hot Brothers" show pose for the camera after finishing at Managaha island in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on Sep. 27. From the left are Kura Kim, Hwi-Soon Park, Sang-Jin Han, Simon D, Jae-Hoon Tak, Myung-Soo Park, and Ki-Kwang Lee. The filming, facilitated by the Marianas Visitors Authority, airs Oct. 10 and Oct. 17, 2010, in Korea.

CNMI Chautauqua Tour to feature President Lincoln

As part of the month long celebration of humanities in our islands, President Abraham Lincoln will be brought to life during the 2010 CNMI Chautauqua Tour.

Chautauqua is a form of living history in which scholars portray significant historical figures. Mr. James Sayre will use President Lincoln's own words to recount stories from his life.

The performance, entitled "I, too, am a Kentuckian," will provide the audience with interesting information about Lincoln's roots and his rise to the presidency. The audience will also have an opportunity to interact with the President during a Q&A session and to take photos after the performance.

The weeklong tour, Oct. 18-22, will be held in all public junior and senior high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Mount Carmel School will host a performance for all private schools.

The public is also cordially invited to a free public performance at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 6pm.

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities has sponsored a number of Chautauqua programs over the past decade featuring scholars portraying Amelia Earhart, Teddy Roosevelt, Mark Twain, Harry Truman, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson.

Sayre is a noted Lincoln scholar and performer affiliated with Kentucky Chautauqua, a presentation of the Kentucky Humanities Council. The CNMI Tour is made possible by a We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information on the Tour or other Humanities Month activities, contact Merced Ada at 235-4787 or visit the council website, www.nmihumanities.org.

The complete tour schedule is as follows:

■ **Sunday – Oct. 17**
Power 99: "Your Humanities Half-Hour" – 2pm

■ **Monday – Oct. 18**
Kagman High School – 8:30am
Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School – 10:15am

■ **Tuesday – Oct. 19**
Hopwood Jr. High School – 9:26am
Saipan Southern High School – 1:30pm
American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre – 6pm

■ **Wednesday – Oct. 20**
Mt. Carmel School (hosting all private schools) – 7:30am
Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School – 11am

■ **Thursday – Oct. 21**
Rota Jr. and Sr. High School – 1:40pm

■ **Friday – October 22**
Marianas High School – 9:25am

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Book sale set on Nov. 13

The CNMI Friends of the Library will be hosting a book sale on Nov. 13 at the Joeten Kiyu Library in susupe.

Hardcover books will be priced at $1 and softcovers will be priced at $.50.

For more information on the event and or to be a volunteer member of the CNMI Friends of the Library, please call Mrs. Janice Sablan at 234-5459 or Schobwuut Premier Consulting's Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 287-0818. You can also email them at janicesablan@yahoo.com or rosetada@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Jury selections on Oct. 18 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "US" that the jury selections scheduled for Oct. 18, 2010 at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, please contact jury coordinator Dora SN. Decena or deputy clerk Ester T. Wabol, at telephone 236-9765. ***(PR)***

Pamphlets of House Legislative Initiatives out

Are you aware of the House Legislative Initiative 16-13, 16-18, and 17-1? For more information you can pick up pamphlets at the following dates and locations:

■ **SAIPAN**
Oct. 16 Dolphin Wholesale 11am-6pm
Oct. 16 Sabalu Market 7:30am-11am
Oct. 21 Northern Marianas College, 5pm-6:25pm

■ **TINIAN**
Oct. 15 Tinian Youth Center 7:30pm

■ **ROTA**
Oct. 15 Rota Song Song Round House 7pm

Business

CDA picked Triple J over another investor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority approved the proposed lease term of Triple J Saipan for the Pacific Gardenia Hotel property in Chalan Kanoa only after another proposal was rejected by the agency.

Loan manager Oscar Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that their office received a different offer from a different businessman "for an upfront cash payment for the fee simple that appeared quite attractive."

"When CDA accepted that offer and requested that money be deposited via an escrow agent and land transfers were to be effectuated, the investor backed out only to complicate matters," said Camacho.

Camacho said there was a proposal to utilize only the beach side of the property but the board wanted the entire complex be sold or leased out.

According to Camacho, the approval of the 55-year lease term of Triple J was finalized last Oct. 9, some three months after the negotiations between the two parties began.

The CDA board held its board meeting the same day.

"We have given Triple J the authority to move forward with occupying the place [and] do what is necessary to protect it pending the final lease agreement," said Camacho.

Camacho pointed out that Triple J communicated to CDA that their apartment project "could not go forward without CDA's approval on providing for sufficient parking spaces."

Triple J Saipan plans to build Sandy Beach Homes, two 60-unit apartment buildings on a private land by the beach behind the Pacific Gardenia property.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Pacific Gardenia Hotel property in Chalan Kanoa.

Each apartment unit will measure between 1,300 to 1,400 square feet and will consist of three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The concept of the project is to provide residents on Saipan an opportunity to live in affordable housing in proximity to schools and other amenities.

Triple J's initial plan was to build only one apartment building that will house all 60 units. To make it more aesthetic, they decided to construct two buildings with a viewing space between the buildings.

Lease, tax issues

When asked about the lease figures of the property, Camacho did not specify the amount but said "it is reasonable under current economic conditions."

The loan manager also said that Triple J need not worry about tax issues involving the property.

"There is a memorandum of understanding or agreement between CDA and [Division of Revenue and Taxation] to settle this matter and is now being addressed again to put a finality and release," he said.

Camacho said the agency is happy to release the asset to the private sector "in hopes that it will be revitalized and provide for employment to our people."

Fuel supplies low as French protest pension reform

PARIS (AP)—Officials have taken the extraordinary step of warning some flights landing at France's main airport to come with enough fuel to get back home, bracing for a possible fuel shortage after a new round of protests Saturday against plans to raise the retirement age to 62.

Police estimated some 825,000 people marched in cities across France to protest President Nicolas Sarkozy's plan to extend the retirement age to keep pension coffers full. That is fewer than during an Oct. 12 march—and far lower than the union estimate of 3 million. But unions are not relenting in fighting for what the French see as a near-sacred right to retire at 60.

A sixth round of nationwide protests is scheduled for Tuesday, a day before the Senate votes on the retirement reform, which must still return to both houses due to amendments tacked on during debates.

"I think the French understand that those who are blocking the country are at the head of the government," Francois Chereque, head of the moderate CFDT union, said on BFM-TV. He later called on the government to "suspend the parliamentary debate."

Schools, trains, public transport and even garbage collection in Marseille have been blocked by intermittant strikes to pressure Sarkozy to back down. The possibility of a long-term fuel shortage appears to be the most worrisome outcome of the protest movement.

All 12 of France's fuel-producing refineries have been hit by strikes that started Tuesday and numerous fuel depots are blocked, triggering a run on gas pumps by fearful motorists. In an extraordinary move, police were called in Friday to force three crucial fuel depots to reopen.

Finance Minister Christine Legarde tried to assuage fears, insisting Saturday that there was no shortage of gasoline.

"Today, there is no reason, no reason, I repeat, to panic because there is no risk of shortages," she told BFM-TV on Saturday, noting that only 230 of the country's 13,000 gas stations were out of fuel. "There are weeks of reserve."

The same could not be said for Charles de Gaulle airport, north of Paris, which moved into a Plan B mode to keep planes flying in and out of the European hub while conserving a limited fuel supply.

Obama: End tax breaks to stop overseas hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—End tax breaks that reward some U.S. companies with overseas subsidiaries and encourage those businesses to create jobs in other countries, President Barack Obama is telling Congress.

Yet it's an idea that has raised concerns even among some lawmakers in the president's own party.

At issue is a bill, now stalled in the Senate, that would do away with some tax credits and deferrals for U.S. companies for operations abroad.

"There is no reason why our tax code should actively reward them for creating jobs overseas," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday. "Instead, we should be using our tax dollars to reward companies that create jobs and businesses within our borders."

Though Obama singled out Republican opposition, the bill also failed to get support from some Democrats, including the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. He has expressed concern that the change would put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage.

The ending of the tax provisions has run into opposition from business groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers.

Obama said that while companies that conduct business internationally do make an important contribution to the U.S. economy, it doesn't make sense to grant them tax breaks when companies at home are struggling to rebound from the economic crisis.

Obama has said he wants revenue collected from ending the tax provisions to go to other business tax breaks, by making permanent research and development tax credits and allowing businesses next year to write off all new equipment costs.

In the GOP address, Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to call Congress back into session to take an immediate vote on whether to extend Bush-era tax cuts.

"The prosperity of the American people is more important than the political fortunes of any politician or any political party," Pence said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China says US clean energy probe 'irresponsible'

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. decision to investigate China's trade policies in the clean energy market is "groundless and irresponsible," China said Saturday. President Barack Obama's administration said Friday the issue would be looked into after a union complaint. "The signal it sends is that the U.S. does not support China's efforts at improving the environment," said a statement posted in response on China's commerce ministry website. The United Steelworkers say Chinese businesses are able to sell wind and solar equipment on the international market at a cheaper price because they get subsidies from the Chinese government that are prohibited by global trade rules.

Fox, Cablevision suspend negotiations over dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Cablevision, the service provider for 3 million customers in the New York area, and Fox parent News Corp. failed to solve a dispute over rates Saturday, leaving baseball fans who wanted to watch the opener of the National League Championship Series with a blank screen instead of a marquee pitching matchup. Both sides met throughout the afternoon Saturday but adjourned before the start of the playoff game between the Phillies and the San Francisco Giants, said Cablevision spokesman Jim Maiella. Negotiators plan to meet again Sunday. The stalemate that led to Fox pulling its channels and, briefly, online content from subscribers in parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut early Saturday was the latest in a series of programming fee disputes that have led to blackouts of programs such as the Oscars. But the impasse amounted to more than corporate wrangling for Bronx resident Clifford Taylor.

Chavez pledges oil to Belarus for 200 years

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—In one of his typical flamboyant gestures, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday promised to provide oil to the former Soviet republic of Belarus for the next 200 years. Chavez, who was visiting Belarus on Saturday, promised that Belarusian refineries—the backbone of the country's economy—"would feel no shortages of oil in the next 200 years." Venezuela in March agreed to ship 80,000 barrels of heavy crude a day to Belarus as well as create a joint venture to develop oil and natural gas projects in this South American country.

Nation

Discovery of GPS tracker becomes privacy issue

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yasir Afifi, a 20-year-old computer salesman and community college student, took his car in for an oil change earlier this month and his mechanic spotted an odd wire hanging from the undercarriage.

The wire was attached to a strange magnetic device that puzzled Afifi and the mechanic. They freed it from the car and posted images of it online, asking for help in identifying it.

Two days later, FBI agents arrived at Afifi's Santa Clara apartment and demanded the return of their property—a global positioning system tracking device now at the center of a raging legal debate over privacy rights.

One federal judge wrote that the widespread use of the device was straight out of George Orwell's novel, "1984".

"By holding that this kind of surveillance doesn't impair an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy, the panel hands the government the power to track the movements of every one of us, every day of our lives," wrote Alex Kozinski, the chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a blistering dissent in which a three-judge panel from his court ruled that search warrants weren't necessary for GPS tracking.

But other federal and state courts have come to the opposite conclusion.

Law enforcement advocates for the devices say GPS can eliminate time-consuming stakeouts and old-fashioned "tails" with unmarked police cars. The technology had a starring role in the HBO cops-and-robbers series "The Wire" and police use it to track every type of suspect—from terrorist to thieves stealing copper from air conditioners.

AP

In this undated photo provided by Yasir Afifi, shows a GPS monitoring device he found on his car in Santa Clara, Calif.

That investigators don't need a warrant to use GPS tracking devices in California troubles privacy advocates, technophiles, criminal defense attorneys and others.

The federal appeals court based in Washington D.C. said in August that investigators must obtain a warrant for GPS in tossing out the conviction and life sentence of Antoine Jones, a nightclub owner convicted of operating a cocaine distribution ring. That court concluded that the accumulation of four-weeks worth of data collected from a GPS on Jones' Jeep amounted to a government "search" that required a search warrant.

Judge Douglas Ginsburg said watching Jones' Jeep for an entire month rather than trailing him on one trip made all the difference between surveilling a suspect on public property and a search needing court approval.

"First, unlike one's movements during a single journey, the whole of one's movements over the course of a month is not actually exposed to the public because the likelihood anyone will observe all those movements is effectively nil," Ginsburg wrote. The state high courts of New York, Washington and Oregon have ruled similarly.

The Obama administration last month asked the D.C. federal appeals court to change its ruling, calling the decision "vague and unworkable" and arguing that investigators will lose access to a tool they now use "with great frequency."

After the D.C. appeals court decision, the 9th Circuit refused to revisit its opposite ruling.

The panel had concluded that agents could have gathered the same information by following Juan Pineda-Moreno, who was convicted of marijuana distribution after a GPS device alerted agents he was leaving a suspected "grow site."

"The only information the agents obtained from the tracking devices was a log of the locations where Pineda-Moreno's car traveled, information the agents could have obtained by following the car," Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain wrote for the three-judge panel.

Iran releases American held for 2 years in Tehran

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iran on Saturday set free an American businessman jailed in Tehran for more than two years on suspicion on ties to an allegedly violent opposition group.

Reza Taghavi, 71, hadn't been charged with a crime and denied knowingly supporting the organization, known as Tondar.

"He admitted to nothing and he continues to maintain his innocence," his lawyer, Pierre Prosper, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Tehran after his client's release from Tehran's Evin prison. He's not expected to return to Southern California before the middle of next week.

Iranian officials are "comfortable that he was in fact used by this organization, and comfortable that he does not pose a threat to them and that he can leave and go back to the United States," Prosper said.

Iran had accused Taghavi of passing $200 in cash to an Iranian man tied to Tondar. Taghavi, who regularly visits Iran to conduct business and see family, had received the money from a friend in California with instructions to pass the cash to an Iranian, according to Prosper.

"I didn't do anything wrong. Someone just asked me take this money to help someone," Taghavi told ABC News.

"Sometimes I feel relief, sometimes, I feel angry. What happened? Two-and-a-half years for what?" he said.

His family had said he has diabetes and was in poor health, and his lawyer has asked Iran to free him on humanitarian grounds.

Prosper said Taghavi won't able to leave until this coming week because of conditions attached to his release. While Taghavi never was charged formally or presented with paperwork indicating a charge, Prosper said there is a case within the Iranian justice system. He plans to meet with a judge in the next week in hopes of getting that case dismissed.

The best way to describe the situation, he said, is that the case is suspended and Taghavi is free to leave.

"We welcome the release of Reza Taghavi from detention in Evin Prison in Iran, and are pleased that he will soon be reunited with his family. We urge Iranian authorities to extend the same consideration to Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer, and other detained Americans by resolving their cases without delay," said State Department spokesman Noel Clay.

Fattal and Bauer are two American hikers jailed in Iran since they were arrested near the Iran-Iraq border in July 2009. The Iranians released Bauer's fiancee, Sarah Shourd, a month ago.

Prosper said he and Taghavi will visit the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, site of an April 2008 bombing at a mosque that killed 14 people. Iranian authorities blame the group that Taghavi is suspected of being involved with, and told Taghavi to meet with victims of the attack.

"He feels aggrieved. He feels used" by his friend back home who provided the cash, Prosper said.

Feds oppose Calif. Prop 19 to legalize marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The U.S. government will "vigorously enforce" federal laws against marijuana even if voters next month make California the first state to legalize pot, Attorney General Eric Holder says.

Holder's warning, contained in a letter to ex-federal drug enforcement chiefs, was his most direct statement yet against Proposition 19, and it sets up another showdown with California over marijuana if the measure passes.

With Prop 19 leading in the polls, the letter also raised questions about the extent to which federal drug agents would go into communities across the state to catch small-time users and dealers, or whether they even had the resources to do it.

If the ballot measure passes, the state would regulate recreational pot use. Adults could possess up to one ounce of the drug and grow small gardens on private property. Local governments would decide whether to allow and tax sales of the drug.

But Holder stressed that the Justice Department remains committed to enforcing the Controlled Substances Act in all states.

"We will vigorously enforce the CSA against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law," he wrote.

The letter was dated Wednesday and was obtained by The Associated Press.

Medical marijuana users and experts were skeptical, saying there was little the federal government could do to slow the march to legalization.

"This will be the new industry," said Chris Nelson, 24, who smokes pot to ease recurring back pain and was lined up outside a San Francisco dispensary. "It's taxable new income. So many tourists will flock here like they go to Napa. This will become the new Amsterdam."

ACROSS THE NATION

NC police: Missing girl seen alive in September

HICKORY, N.C. (AP)—A missing 10-year-old North Carolina girl was seen in public as recently as two weeks before she was reported missing, police said Saturday, narrowing an uncertain timeline that has hindered their investigation. Investigators said previously they couldn't find anyone outside Zahra Clare Baker's household who had seen her alive in more than a month. That uncertainty has made it difficult for police to narrow places to search for the girl whose bone cancer left her with hearing aids and a prosthetic leg. Zahra was reported missing Oct. 9, but investigators have said they don't believe the story given by her father and stepmother. Police believe the girl is dead.

NM man cleaning gun accidentally shoots mom, son

CHAPARRAL, N.M. (AP)—Investigators in New Mexico say a Chaparral man who was cleaning his handgun Saturday morning accidentally shot his 4-year-old son and the bullet passed through the boy and hit the man's mother. Dona Ana Sheriff's Department investigator Bo Nevarez says both are in critical co dition but their wounds aren't believed to be life-threatening. He says the bullet struck the boy in his stomach and continued through to the grandmother and hit her in the abdomen. Nevarez declined to identify the man. Investigators regard it as an accident but are sending the case to prosecutors to determine whether negligence played a role.

No disruptions from taxi fire near NJ airport

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a taxi that caught fire near a Newark Liberty Airport terminal outside New York City caused no major problems or disruptions. The taxi began burning in the area of Terminal A around 1 p.m. Saturday, shortly after a major security training exercise at the New Jersey airport had concluded. A person with knowledge of the incident says the fire was not connected to the training event. The person was not authorized to speak on the record about the fire and spoke on condition of anonymity. The vehicle was destroyed before the fire was extinguished, but no injuries or further property damage were reported and no one was evacuated. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Asia

Former RP president linked to corruption

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has been implicated in at least two corruption and vote-rigging scandals being investigated as part of her successor's bid to clean government, officials said Friday.

Arroyo

Law professor Carlos Medina, a member of the five-member commission set up by President Benigno Aquino III to probe the issue, said the body has an initial list of 23 cases of massive graft and corruption linked to government officials in Arroyo's administration.

Two of the cases are directly linked to Arroyo, who faced down four coup plots and several attempts to remove her from office through impeachment during her Jan. 2001-June 2010 term as president.

Medina said Arroyo would be investigated over allegations she was linked in a bribery scandal involving a $330 million deal with a Chinese telecommunications company that she later aborted after it was decried as overpriced, as well as allegations that she conspired with an election official to commit voter fraud in the 2004 presidential elections.

While Arroyo has been implicated in the cases, the commission has yet to officially start its investigation. Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

Another member of the commission, former Supreme Court Justice Flerida Ruth Romero, said corruption in the Philippines "has reached very alarming levels, and undermined the people's trust and confidence in the government and its institutions."

She said the commission's work will "restore the trust and confidence of the people in the government."

The commission, however, faces legal obstacles before it can formally open hearings.

China mine blast rescuers try to reach 11 trapped

YUZHOU, China (AP)—Dozens of anxious relatives and friends of 11 miners trapped underground by an explosion in central China gathered outside the site Sunday while rescuers said they were fighting tons of coal dust to try to reach the workers.

The number of miners confirmed dead rose Sunday by five to 26, state media said, citing a briefing by the rescue headquarters.

China's crisis happened as the world still was celebrating Chile's successful rescue of 33 miners trapped for more than two months. Chinese media had detailed coverage as the Chilean men emerged to cheers.

Some in China asked whether their own officials would make as much of an effort in a similar disaster and be just as open about the progress of rescue efforts. The test came quickly for China, whose mining industry is the most dangerous in the world.

Saturday's blast at the Pingyu Coal & Electric Co. Ltd. mine occurred as workers were drilling a hole to release pressure from a gas buildup to decrease the risk of explosions, the state work safety administration said.

State media said 70 rescuers had been deployed to the site in Henan province after Saturday's early morning explosion. Hopes of rescuing the remaining trapped workers were fading as they were buried under coal and it could take three or four days to try to find them, said a report by China National Radio.

Rescuers also faced dangerous gas levels and the risk of falling rocks as they worked their way into the mine pit.

NKorea threatens '1,000-fold' increase in weapons

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean media on Saturday threatened a "1,000-fold" military buildup as the United States ruled out lifting sanctions to try to coax the North into resuming talks aimed at its nuclear weapons programs.

Last year, North Korea quit the nuclear disarmament talks and later tested an atomic device that drew tightened U.N. sanctions.

But North Korea said Saturday it is willing to rejoin the negotiations and remains committed to implementing a September 2005 accord on abandoning its nuclear program in exchange for aid and security guarantees. Instead, it accused the United States and other participants of holding back the six-nation talks.

North Korea "is ready for the resumption of the ... talks but decided not to go hasty but to make ceaseless patient efforts now that the U.S. and some other participating countries are not ready for them," the country's Foreign Ministry said late Saturday in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The talks involve the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia.

The statement came after North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Kim Kye Gwan, returned home from a five-day trip to China, the North's key ally.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Petraeus: NATO has facilitated Taliban movement

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Commanding Gen. David Petraeus confirmed Friday that coalition forces have allowed Taliban representatives to travel to Kabul for peace discussions with the Afghan government, but a Taliban spokesman said all such talk is only propaganda, designed to lower the morale of the movement's fighters. U.S., Afghan and Taliban sources all declined to give details of the contacts, if they are taking place at all. "There have been several very senior Taliban leaders who have reached out to the Afghan government at the highest levels, and also in some cases have reached out to other countries involved in Afghanistan," Petraeus told reporters at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

Thousands in China, Japan rally over island claims

BEIJING (AP)—Thousands of Chinese marched in the streets in sometimes violent protests Saturday against Japan and its claim to disputed islands, a show of anger far larger than past protests over the competing territorial claims. The Chinese government said the protests were "understandable" but that patriotism should be expressed in a rational way. Photos from the southwestern city of Chengdu and the central city of Zhengzhou showed hundreds of people marching with banners and signs protesting Japan's claim on what China calls the Diaoyu islands. Japan calls them the Senkaku islands.

SKorea: Somali pirates abduct 43 sailors off Kenya

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Somali pirates have hijacked a South Korean-operated fishing boat with 43 sailors, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Sunday. Two South Korean, two Chinese and 39 Kenyans were aboard the 241-ton Kenya-registered trawler when it was attacked Oct. 9 in the waters off Kenya's Lamu Island, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It wasn't immediately known if negotiations with the pirates had begun or if they were demanding a ransom.

World

With flawless rescue, Chile hopes to join the club

COPIAPO, Chile (AP)—As the capsule carried the first rescuer down to the 33 trapped miners, President Sebastian Pinera closed his eyes, made the sign of the cross and then smiled at Mining Minister Laurence Golborne.

The men shook hands and shared a look that said "We did it!"

And when all 33 men had been safely rescued about 23 hours later, Pinera emerged as more than just a president who oversaw a flawless rescue watched by millions worldwide.

He has become a potentially transformational figure who could change the political landscape of Chile and bring the South American nation closer to the developed status it deeply covets.

Pinera was not shy about laying out this vision moments after the first miner was pulled out.

"Chile is not the same country today as it was 69 days ago," he said Wednesday. The nation is "more united and strong than ever and I believe that today Chile is a country more respected and valued in the entire world."

AP
In this photo released by the Chilean Presidential Press Office, the last miner to be rescued, Luis Urzua, center, gestures as Chile's President Sebastian Pinera, right, looks on after his rescue from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he had been trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, Wednesday Oct. 13, 2010.

On a national level, Pinera made good on a central campaign promise: to govern with the obsessive efficiency of a business. More important, he showed the model can work.

While always appearing in charge, Pinera empowered Chile's most experienced mining engineers to do whatever necessary to get the job done. The team he assembled quickly brought in some of the world's best engineers, drillers and scientists, along with powerful drilling rigs worth millions of dollars.

Like any effective CEO, Pinera delegated and then got out of the way, visiting the rescue effort only a few times before the triumphant finale.

"The instruction from President Pinera was always: Get them out using all available resources," said Interior Ministry official Cristian Barra, who oversaw the logistics.

Celebs, big donors push Africa's war on malaria

SESHEKE, Zambia (AP)—It had been a long and difficult journey, fully deserving of the marching band and choirs that greeted the convoy when it finally rolled into this village deep in the African bush.

The shipment had traveled from a factory in India by sea to Kenya, then overland across much of southern Africa to the place where the paved road ended.

The cargo was mosquito nets—weapons in a war against malaria, a disease that has long taken a back seat to AIDS in the world's consciousness of Africa's woes, even though it kills almost as many Africans a year as the HIV virus.

In recent years, however, malaria's profile has risen in the world of celebrities and high-spending philanthropists. Actress Sharon Stone gave the cause a spectacular boost in a 2005, and the shipment of 11,900 mosquito nets to the Zambian village of Sesheke was financed and accompanied by Neville Isdell, a former Coca-Cola CEO, and Chris Flowers, a billionaire American investor.

It was organized by British-based Christian Aid, which works with local churches to distribute the nets free of charge.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Palestinians say 1 dead in Israeli strike in Gaza

GAZA City, Gaza Strip (AP)—An Israeli airstrike killed one person and wounded two in northern Gaza early Sunday, Palestinian officials said. Hamas officials said Israeli forces opened fire at a militant training ground north of Gaza City. Palestinian hospital official Adham Abu Salmia confirmed one dead and two wounded, one of them critically. The Israeli military confirmed it targeted a squad of militants preparing to fire rockets toward Israel. Israel regularly targets Gaza militants in the early hours of the day as they either prepare or train for attacks. The last such strike took place more than a month ago.

2 miners found dead after Ecuador tunnel collapse

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Search teams found the bodies of two miners Saturday and were still looking for two other men missing since a tunnel collapsed 490 feet (150 meters) underground the previous day. Deputy Mining Minister Jorge Espinosa identified the two known dead as Walter Vera and Paul Aguirre. He said searchers still held hopes they could rescue the two missing miners, Pedro Mendoza and Angel Vera. "We hope to find the two other miners alive because they were in a spot that probably was not affected" by the cave-in, Espinosa told The Associated Press.

Mexico: Copter crash kills 6 oil workers, 2 pilots

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—Officials say a helicopter carrying oil workers has crashed in southeastern Mexico, killing all eight people on board. Veracruz state Civil Protection chief Silvia Dominguez says the aircraft was traveling from Ciudad del Carmen in Campeche state toward Minatitlan, Veracruz. On board were six mechanics employed by Compania Mexicana de Exploracion SA, a contractor for state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex. Two pilots also died. Dominguez says authorities are investigating possible mechanical failure.

Health & Fitness

Cancer activist's approach:

Real, a bit irreverent

CHICAGO (AP)—Lindsay Avner is no shrinking violet. She's a bright pink whirlwind, with a closet full of dresses cut from that very color and a cancer-fighting organization she named for it.

Bold yet calculating, she is the nice girl who knows how to get what she wants, and how to get away with saying things others couldn't, or wouldn't.

"Mind your melons," Avner, who's 28, tells any young woman who'll listen. "Touch your ta-tas."

"Remember to check in with 'the girls' every so often."

It is an edgy approach that sometimes raises eyebrows, at least outside the young demographic she's trying to reach—not to mention the disapproval of some breast cancer researchers who don't necessarily think that self-exams are the most effective approach for detection.

But they're missing the point, Avner says. Self-exam is one tool, a way to get her peers talking about a topic they often avoid, or think no one else understands: their breast and ovarian health.

It appears to be working. Her fledgling Bright Pink organization now has 10 chapters across the country and the kind of fundraising success in a recession that would make most nonprofit executives envious. Sponsors include major brands, from Wrigley's Orbit White gum and Vespa scooters to a line of pink gym equipment sold at Sports Authority.

As she likes to say, "This is not your mother's cancer organization."

Nor is this a battle that Avner necessarily chose.

Rather, it chose her.

The realization that cancer would forever shape her life came early on, as young Lindsay Avner looked around the dinner table at family gatherings and saw very few women, especially on her mother's side.

Her maternal great-grandmother and grandmother died of breast cancer one week apart, when Avner's own mother was only 18. In those days, people didn't talk much about the "c-word"; Avner's mother had no idea how sick her mother or grandmother were until they were gone.

Through the years, two of her mom's aunts and a cousin also died of the same disease. Then, in 1994, when Avner had just turned 12, she remembers coming home from school and seeing her father's car in the driveway of their home in Bexley, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

She knew something was up. It was unusual for her father to be home from work that early.

"Hi, honey," her mom, Wendy Avner, said in a gentle tone, asking her daughter to sit down with them. "We've got something to tell you."

Her mother had breast cancer, too.

Young Lindsay immediately thought the worst and wondered who would tuck her in at night, as her mother had always done. She developed odd superstitions: making sure she brushed her teeth and hair and washed her face in the same order each night so her mother wouldn't die.

"It was my way of trying to control a situation I couldn't control," she now says.

Then, 10 months later, her mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, too.

As Wendy Avner tells it, her daughter had always been mature for her age. Now she had a sick mom, a 3-year-old brother and a father who had to work a lot to keep the family afloat, and "she absolutely rose to the occasion."

"But lots of times, I felt guilty. I felt like I had stripped her of her childhood," says Wendy Avner, now 58.

Lindsay took on chores around the house, cared for her little brother, did whatever she could to help. She also got involved with the Susan G. Komen For the Cure fundraising walks, but noticed that there were few people her age there.

Soon, she had half the students at her high school walking to raise funds for Komen. Then, they challenged other high schools in the Columbus area to do the same. By the time she was a sophomore at the University of Michigan, the High School Team Challenge, as it was known, was getting national recognition. Among other things, teen magazine CosmoGIRL! named her a "Girl on Top."

Her own cancer risk also was ever present. Even as she enjoyed her college years, she made sure to get regular breast screenings.

"I just sort of grew up with the belief that I would get it, too," she says.

Then, she was forced to confront the risks. In 2005, her mother underwent genetic testing and was informed that she had a mutation associated with breast and ovarian cancer.

Lindsay, who had graduated from college days before, was angry that her mother had been tested. She wasn't ready to deal with the ramifications. "It was my own control issues. But I felt like she'd shot off the gun and said 'Go!' and I was suddenly in a race I didn't want to be in," she says.

Still, she also decided to have the test. And just as she feared, she had the same mutation in the BRCA1 gene. For her, it meant she had up to an 87 percent chance of developing breast cancer and a 54 percent chance of getting ovarian cancer.

She was only 22.

Avner attempted to get on with her life. She got a job in brand management with Unilever, moved to a downtown Chicago high-rise, threw herself into work and dated—almost with a vengeance. She was certain she needed to find a husband and start a family before it was too late.

She began getting debilitating migraines: "In hindsight, it was all this nervousness. It was, 'You're going to get cancer. You gotta hurry up.'"

This was no way to live her life, she says. So she started looking for a surgeon who would consider a bilateral prophylactic mastectomy, a preventive procedure that would remove her breast tissue and replace it with implants.

Few would consider it for someone her age.

"Are you married?" she recalls one Chicago surgeon asking her, implying that she wouldn't find a husband if she had the surgery done.

She eventually went to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where her mother had had breast surgery. There, she talked to Dr. Patrick Borgen, "the first one whose jaw didn't drop when I said I wanted to do this," Avner says.

Borgen had known Avner since she was 12. She'd watched her mother go through this process, knew more about breast cancer and its treatment than most people twice her age, Borgen says. Though he wouldn't recommend the procedure for just any patient, given her family history, he took her request for surgery seriously.

"Without any question, she came to the decision as educated and as prepared as any patient I've ever encountered in my practice," says Borgen, now chairman of surgery at Maimonides Medical Center in New York, where he heads the Brooklyn Breast Cancer Project.

"Frankly, when she was 12, she was pretty impressive, too."

The procedure, because of her age, became big news. TV networks contacted her. Some in the medical field also criticized Borgen, who remains steadfast in his opinion that women in Avner's position should be given all their options and allowed to choose what's right for them.

"I've seen a dozen patients who found it unbelievably helpful to be able to decide 'yes' or 'no' for themselves," Borgen says of the preventive mastectomy. "Frankly, most decide 'no.'"

But for Avner, who had her mastectomy in the summer of 2006, there are no regrets.

"I can't imagine sitting there in chemotherapy, with a drip, bald and with a husband and children, knowing I could have done this," she says. "I know how it is. I saw it with my mom. Your life goes from normal to not normal overnight."

Her desire to have children is the only reason she's waiting to have her ovaries removed, probably at age 35.

She never wanted to make a big deal out of her surgery; she emphasizes that her story is only one among many. Her point, once again, is to get young women to become more aware of their own cancer risk.

"It doesn't have to be that life-ending thing. That's the conversation we're having," Avner says. "There's much more going on than 'I had a mastectomy.'"

Still, if she hadn't had the mastectomy, Bright Pink may have never happened.

Because of the surgery, young women start-

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H E A L T H & F I T N E S S

CANCER

From Page 18

ed writing her letters. Many of them had similar family histories, but had felt isolated, like the only one among their peers who had to worry about breast and ovarian cancer.

Some called her "inspiring." The term still makes her uncomfortable—but, in the letters, Avner saw a need that wasn't being filled.

While still working at Unilever, she launched a small website in early 2007, known as Bright Pink even back then.

Through it, she organized yoga parties and cooking classes with a growing network of young women in Chicago who were looking for support and information about breast and ovarian health. They often ended their gatherings by dining on pink cupcakes and lemonade.

Interest in the site grew quickly, and Avner found herself working seven days a week.

"I can't do it anymore," she told her parents.

Something had to give. So a little over two years ago, she made the decision to quit her job to work full-time on Bright Pink.

Her mom remembers feeling nervous, but also thinking, "Well, she's young enough. If it doesn't work out, she could get another job."

Having witnessed her daughter's resolve, though, she also had an inkling that she just might pull this off.

This was, after all, the young woman who'd always set impossibly higher standards for herself, more than her parents or anyone else ever did. This was the young woman who, as a teen, literally got thrown from a horse during riding lessons and got right back in the saddle.

She was not easily deterred.

In Chicago circles, Avner quickly made a name for herself, dubbed by local magazines as an "It Girl" and a "Woman to Watch."

Her background in brand management was one of her biggest assets. In almost every photo taken in her role as executive director, she wore one of those bright pink dresses, all the while maintaining a laser focus on her original mission: to provide education, support and community for young women who have a high risk of getting breast and ovarian cancer. She resisted the urge to expand that mission to raise money, for instance, for breast cancer research (there are many organizations that already do that, she says, and Bright Pink partners with many of them).

At the same time, she's also clear that she doesn't want her organization to become a snobby Bright Pink clique. This is about welcoming anyone, she says. This is about meeting people on their terms.

Sure, there might be teas, pink cupcakes and lemonade. But there also are "Treasure Your Chest" seminars and webcasts, one of them with E! Television host Giuliana Rancic in which Avner showed Rancic, on camera, how to give herself a breast exam. And Avner is equally as comfortable attending a lesbian burlesque show to hand out health information.

Bright Pink volunteer Kristina Hernandez met Avner for the first time at a restaurant in San Antonio, Texas, last winter. Hernandez, now the Bright Pink San Antonio chapter "ambassador," is a 36-year-old mother of three whose own mother died from ovarian cancer two years ago. Genetic testing determined that Hernandez was at risk, too.

Hernandez was planning on having her own breasts and ovaries removed, so the conversation quickly turned to Avner's mastectomy.

"Do you want to see my boobs?" Avner asked.

"Kinda," Hernandez replied. "Is that weird?"

They went to the bathroom, where Avner lifted up her shirt and let Hernandez inspect her breasts and scars, knowing that Hernandez herself would soon have scars like those. They talked openly about the procedure, including a "nipple-sparing" technique, which meant that Avner got to keep hers.

Hernandez knows the scene might seem a bit odd. "But it was really very comforting," she says.

She knew Avner understood.

At her Chicago office, Avner kicks off her flip-flops and walks around in her bare feet. She's as likely to greet a guest with a hug as a handshake. But there's a catch to her openness, as her staff recently informed her.

"I give a lot of positive praise," she says, "but I don't always cushion the criticism."

At this time of year, she's particularly tightly wound. Fall is "show time," she says, critical for fundraising since October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This fall, Bright Pink expects to bring in about $400,000 from donations and sponsorships, nearly 60 percent of its budget. Wrigley, for instance, plans to donate up to $75,000 for sales of Orbit White gum that carries the Bright Pink logo.

"Lindsay means business," says Leah Drew, Bright Pink's 29-year-old events and outreach coordinator. But she also isn't afraid to hire equally strong-minded and ambitious staff members, two of them full-time right now. "There are no egos here."

Sarah Halberstadt, 25, turned down a job with the Obama administration after working as a field organizer for the president's campaign, opting to work instead for Bright Pink as national programs manager. She is amazed by Avner's energy; for example, Avner insisted on handwriting a personal note to each of the doctors who received Bright Pink educational pamphlets for patients, known as "Little Bright Books." Night after night, she took the packets home in two suitcases and dropped them off at the post office the next day.

"I look at people who float through life, and it looks so boring," Avner says.

Sometimes, though, her staff must remind her to let them do their jobs, and push her out the door at the end of the day.

"Go to yoga," they tell her. "Leave us alone—please!"

There is, indeed, a constant sense of urgency, a feeling of responsibility, even when Avner is relaxing (or trying to relax) at home.

She lives in a studio apartment in the same building as her parents. And as she sits in her parents' apartment downing Chinese noodles, she nods when asked about that need to do, do, do.

"I always felt a lot more responsibility as a kid," she says. "I still feel it now. A lot is resting on me."

She pauses for a moment—something she does rarely.

"I think I still have this warped sense of how much control I have over a situation."

And so, her schedule is insane.

One recent week, she flew to the University of Texas at Austin to speak to sororities on campus about her work; helped organize and lead an evening teleconference on Ovarian Health 101; took part in "That Stupid Cancer Show," an online radio show for young adults affected by cancer—even as she ran Bright Pink.

It doesn't leave a lot of time for a personal life. But even though she tries not to put pressure on herself or the men she dates, she does want to find a partner in life and have a family.

"I'm good luck. If we date, you'll get married—to someone else," she jokes.

Really, though, she is a hopeless romantic.

"My dream sounds kind of cheesy, but I want to be a really amazing mother. I want to be a great wife. I want to live a life where I give back constantly."

One day, she also envisions handing Bright Pink over to another "spunky twentysomething."

"I want it to all work out," she says. "Isn't it supposed to be that if you put enough good out into the world, it comes back to you?"

She looks a little sad when she says it, as if she fears that won't happen. At that moment, it's easy to imagine that 12-year-old girl who learned that her mother had cancer.

Her mother, though, has gotten over the guilt she felt, not only for her daughter's missed childhood, but for passing on the cancer risk.

"Would she be the person she is today if she hadn't had this experience?" Wendy Avner asks.

"Sometimes things happen for a reason."

Life & Style

Barbara Billingsley, Beaver Cleaver's TV mom, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even decades after the show ended, Barbara Billingsley expressed surprise at the lasting affection people had for "Leave it to Beaver" and her role as the warm, supportive mother of a pair of precocious boys.

The actress, who gained supermom status for her gentle portrayal of June Cleaver in the 1950s television series, died Saturday after a long illness. She was 94.

"We knew we were making a good show, because it was so well written," Billingsley said in 1994. "But we had no idea what was ahead. People still talk about it and write letters, telling how much they watch it today with their children and grandchildren."

Billingsley, who had suffered from a rheumatoid disease, died at her home in Santa Monica, said family spokeswoman Judy Twersky.

When the show debuted in 1957, Jerry Mathers, who played Beaver, was 9, and Tony Dow, who portrayed Wally, was 12. Billingsley's character, the perfect stay-at-home 1950s mom, was always there to gently but firmly nurture both through the ups and downs of childhood.

Beaver, meanwhile, was a typical boy whose adventures landed him in one comical crisis after another.

Billingsley's own two sons said she was pretty much the image of June Cleaver in real life, although the actress disagreed.

AP

In this Sept. 27, 2007 file photo, Barbara Billingsley, of "Leave It To Beaver," smiles as the cast members reunite in Santa Monica, Calif.

"She was every bit as nurturing, classy, and lovely as 'June Cleaver,' and we were so proud to share her with the world," her son Glenn Billingsley said Saturday.

She did acknowledge that she may have become more like June as the series progressed.

"I think what happens is that the writers start writing about you as well as the character they created," she once said. "So you become sort of all mixed up, I think."

A wholesome beauty with a lithe figure, Billingsley began acting in her elementary school's plays and soon discovered she wanted to do nothing else.

Although her beauty and figure won her numerous roles in movies from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s, she failed to obtain star status until "Leave it to Beaver," a show that she almost passed on.

Inarritu's 'Biutiful' opens Mexican film festival

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, acclaimed for his movies "Babel" and "Amores Perros," opened Morelia's International Film Festival on Saturday with his newest work set against the plight of migrants.

Inarritu said, though, that "Biutiful" is not a movie with a sweeping theme about politics or despair—rather it is the story of a dying man discovering what is most important as life runs out.

The main character, Uxbal, played by Oscar-winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem, lives and works in a Barcelona slum as a middleman for African and Chinese migrants who is dealing with a bipolar ex-wife and trying to make ends meet for his two children.

Though the raw portrait of migrant life and their exploitation is a key secondary theme, the tragedies that unfold are not a commentary on immigration, Inarritu said.

AP

Mexican director Alejandro Inarritu, left, and Spanish actor Javier Bardem joke at the International Film Festival in Morelia, Mexico, Saturday Oct. 16, 2010.

"I'm not trying to make them victims or saints," he said. "I'm just trying to integrate them into a dialogue, show that they're human beings with virtues and flaws, with their needs as parents and children."

Inarritu said Barcelona is just one of many cities around the world grappling with the growing flow of migrants. He acknowledged the phenomenon is heartbreaking, too, in his own country—where 72 migrants from Central and South America were recently massacred, reportedly after refusing to work for a drug gang that kidnapped them on their way to the U.S.

But he said political arguments over migration are for others to make, not his movie.

Rapper T.I. headed back to prison for 11 months

In this Oct. 3, 2010 file photo, Grammy award winning artist Clifford "TI" Harris, left, poses for media with his wife Tameka "Tiny" Harris, right, during an Alzheimers "For the Love of Our Fathers" foundation honoree luncheon at the Luckie Lounge in Atlanta.

AP

ATLANTA (AP)—A federal judge revoked rapper T.I.'s probation Friday and ordered him back to prison for 11 months following his arrest last month in California on suspicion of drug possession.

The Atlanta native, whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., was on probation after serving 10 months behind bars on federal weapons charges.

"I think Mr. Harris had had about the limit of second chances," U.S. District Court Judge Charles Pannell Jr. said in court, according to a report by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

During the hearing, T.I. begged the judge not to send him back to prison, saying he needed to get help for drug addiction. He told the judge he "screwed up" and pleaded for mercy.

"I screwed up big time, and I'm sorry. I'm truly and sincerely sorry. I don't want and I don't need to use drugs anymore. I want them out of my life," Harris told the judge, the Journal-Constitution reported.

The Associated Press was relying on information from the newspaper because the judge closed the courtroom after it was filled and several media outlets including AP were not allowed inside.

Pannell wasn't swayed by the rapper's plea.

The judge had said T.I.'s sentence was an "experiment" he hoped to replicate if it worked. The rapper was allowed to stay out of prison while performing 1,000 hours of community service, mostly talking with schoolchildren about the dangers of gangs, drugs and violence.

"You certainly dumped a lot of smut on the whole experiment," Pannell told T.I.

The Grammy Award-winning artist is one of the biggest names in hip-hop, with multiple platinum-selling albums and singles, production credits and roles in films like "ATL" and "American Gangster."

After the hearing, U.S. Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said she was disappointed with T.I.

"We had hoped that this would be a new, innovative opportunity," she told AP. "We're not giving up on Mr. Harris, but ... if you veer off the road of redemption, there are consequences."

The rapper, wearing a gray three-piece suit, walked out of court with family and friends, leaving the building through a back exit without speaking to reporters.

He is expected to surrender voluntarily to authorities Nov. 1. As a condition of his release earlier this year, he was ordered not to commit another federal, state or local crime while on supervised release, or to illegally possess a controlled substance. He was also told to take at least three drug tests after his release and to participate in a drug and alcohol treatment program.

Yates urged the judge to consider a sentence of two years in prison. She said T.I. submitted diluted urine samples and told his probation officer he had used ecstasy at least three times since leaving prison.

T.I's attorneys argued that after reviewing nearly 250 cases with similar charges, none of those people were put back behind bars for violating probation, Crosby said. Additionally, the attorneys told the judge that Harris was addicted to drugs and has attempted to turn his life around since leaving prison.

T.I.'s label, Atlantic Records, put out a statement: "T.I. is such an important and valued member of our Atlantic family. We offer to him and his family our continued love and support during this very difficult time."

Earlier this week, Atlanta police said T.I. helped them talked a suicidal man down from a skyscraper. The rapper heard about the man on the radio and drove over to see if he could help.

The man agreed to come down from the 22-story building in exchange for a few minutes with the rapper, authorities said. They added he recorded a cell phone video of himself that was shown to the man by rescue workers to prove he was really there.

T.I. rejected suggestions that his intervention was a stunt to gain advance favor with the court.

Atlanta Police Department spokesman Officer James Polite testified at Friday's hearing about being present when T.I. lent his assistance.

Audrey Hepburn stamps fetch $606,000 for charity

BERLIN (AP)—A rare sheet of 10 stamps depicting Audrey Hepburn fetched euro430,000 ($606,000) at a charity auction in Berlin, two-thirds of which will go to help educate children in sub-Saharan Africa.

The mint-condition sheet of 10 stamps featuring Hepburn, a coy smile on her face and a long, black cigarette holder dangling from her lips, brought a profitable outcome to a botched stamp series that should have been destroyed years ago—and evokes Hepburn's starring role in the 1963 thriller "Charade," in which the characters chase a set of rare stamps.

Sean Ferrer, 50, Hepburn's son with actor and director Mel Ferrer, and the chair of the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, said he was thrilled that the sale Saturday brought "focus on children in need," but wished the stamps had sold for a higher price.

Two-thirds of money raised will go to the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, and one-third to UNICEF Germany.

The German postal service originally printed 14 million of the Hepburn stamps in 2001 showing the Belgian-born actress in her most famous role as the ebullient Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

Only after the stamps were printed was Sean Ferrer, 50, Hepburn's son and the chair of the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, contacted to grant copyright—but he refused, arguing that the image had been altered.

"In the original photo, she's got sunglasses hanging from her mouth, but they had flipped the negative and replaced the glasses with the cigarette holder," he told The Associated Press.

Ferrer suggested using either the original photo or an alternative, but the postal service ended up scrapping the stamp and ordering those produced destroyed.

Deutsche Post says it saved only two sheets of the stamps—one for its own archive and one for the German Post Museum. But in 2004, a single stamp with Hepburn smoking, postmarked Berlin, landed on auctioneer Andreas Schlegel's desk.

"I was obviously very surprised, because they never were supposed to be used as stamps at all," Schlegel said.

Between 2004 and 2009, four other Hepburn stamps turned up and were authenticated. They sold at auction for between euro62,500 and euro173,000.

After his success selling the fifth stamp, Schlegel contacted Ferrer to suggest asking the German government if they could sell one of the archived stamp sheets for charity. But Ferrer had a better idea: Why not the pristine sheet Germany sent him in 2001, which he still had?

"Andreas almost fell backward and had an apoplectic fit when he heard this," Ferrer said.

Ferrer then signed a contract with the German Finance Ministry, securing rights to sell the stamp sheet for charity and ensuring the government would not be able to sell either of its sheets until 2040.

That move helped drive up the price of the auction, said Mercer Bristow, director of stamp authentication for the American Philatelic Society.

"It goes back to supply and demand. It's the only sheet out there people can bid on and she's still such a popular actress," he told the AP from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Other items being auctioned Saturday include a pair of Hepburn's black ballet slippers and a portrait of the actress.

"I feel wonderful about the fact that something that belonged to her today can bring focus on children in need all over the world," Ferrer said.

Hepburn was a UNICEF ambassador from 1988 until shortly before her death from colon cancer in 1993.

"My mother always told me, 'I didn't make a perfume or go sell toilet paper. I did something good with my name," Ferrer said.

AP

A repro of a set of Audrey-Hepburn stamps that is up for auction photographed in Berlin, Saturday Oct. 16, 2010.

Jurors in Anna Nicole case end first week of talks

In this Feb. 28, 2006 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)_Jurors have ended their first week of deliberations in the Anna Nicole Smith drug conspiracy trial without reaching a verdict.

The six women and six men are scheduled to resume their talks on Monday. They had a short week of deliberations because Monday was a court holiday. But they spent about 20 hours of deliberations over four days talking behind closed doors.

They are considering a wide array of charges against Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern who are accused of providing Smith with excessive prescription medications while knowing she was an addict.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty. Their lawyers argued that the former Playboy model was not an addict and the defendants were trying to help her find relief from chronic pain. They are not charged in Smith's 2007 overdose death.

AP
In this Sept. 30, 2010 file photo, singer Alicia Keys and husband Swizz Beatz arrive at the "Keep A Child Alive Black Ball" at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York.

Singer Alicia Keys gives birth to baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a boy for Alicia Keys and her husband, music producer/rapper Swizz Beatz.

A representative for Keys said she gave birth Thursday night in New York. The couple have named their son Egypt Dean. It's the first child for the 29-year-old superstar and the fourth child for Beatz, whose real name is Kaseem Dean. The couple was married July 31.

Swizz Beatz, 31, took time to tweet on Friday: "I'm so thankful for everything I been blessed with in my life."

Singer Mary J. Blige also tweeted her congratulations on the birth.

Neil Patrick Harris welcomes twins Gideon, Harper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris, star of "How I Met Your Mother," is a father twice over.

According to a Twitter message Friday from Harris that was confirmed by his publicist, the actor and his partner, David Burtka, welcomed twins this week.

Harris tweeted, "Babies!! On 10/12, Gideon Scott and Harper Grace entered the Burtka-Harris fold." He added, "All of us are happy, healthy, tired, and a little pukey."

The 37-year-old actor announced earlier this year that he and Burtka would become parents of twins. He didn't say whether they were adopting or using a surrogate.

Harris, who plays Barney on the CBS sitcom, won an Emmy Award this year for a guest appearance on "Glee" and shared in another Emmy for the Tony Awards, which he hosted.

AP
In this June 7, 2009 file photo, actor Neil Patrick Harris, right, and David Burtka arrive at the 63rd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Liza Minnelli is canceling performances due to illness

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Liza Minnelli is canceling seven upcoming performances because she has bronchial pneumonia.

Minnelli released a statement Thursday through her publicist saying she was ordered by her doctor to cancel the shows.

In her statement, she says performing live is her passion and she's "greatly disappointed" that she had to cancel the tour dates.

The canceled performances include an Oct. 15 concert in Spokane, Wash.; an Oct. 22 show in Appleton, Wis.; and an Oct. 29 appearance in Joliet, Ill. She also will miss shows in Indiana, Massachusetts and Tennessee.

The entertainer says she'll be back on stage Nov. 20 in Staten Island, N.Y.

Minnelli's tour features material from her new CD, "Confessions."

Jackson to start shooting 'The Hobbit' in February

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's time to celebrate again in Middle Earth.

Peter Jackson is set to direct "The Hobbit," the two-part prequel to the popular "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and start shooting in February, Warner Bros. said in a release on Friday.

The movies, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's books, had been delayed by union issues and the ongoing restructuring of flailing Hollywood studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., which owns half the project.

Jackson, who directed the "Rings" trilogy, had originally hired Guillermo del Toro to direct, but del Toro left the project in May because of delays after working on the project for nearly two years.

Jackson also co-wrote the screenplays with del Toro, his wife Fran Walsh, and Philippa Boyens.

"Exploring Tolkien's Middle Earth goes way beyond a normal filmmaking experience," Jackson said in the statement. "We're looking forward to re-entering this wondrous world with Gandalf and Bilbo."

The two movies will be shot back to back using digital 3-D cameras. Earlier this year, Warner Bros. had been criticized for hastily converting "Clash of the Titans" into 3-D after shooting it using regular cameras.

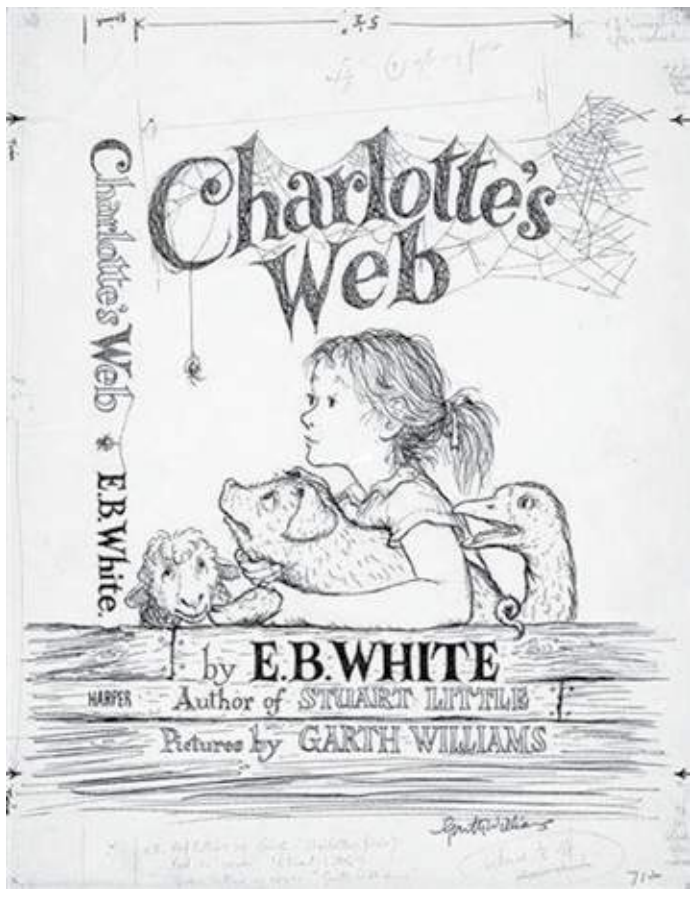
The Time Warner Inc. subsidiary even canceled plans to bring "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" to the screen in 3-D on Nov. 19 because it wasn't able to complete the conversion process in time. The final "Harry Potter" installment will hit theaters in 3-D next July.

In the statement, Jackson hinted at the importance of shooting the "Hobbit" movies in 3-D from the start.

"It's an all-immersive journey into a very special place of imagination, beauty and drama," he said.

No release dates for the movies was given.

'Charlotte's Web' cover art fetches $155,000 in NYC



AP
This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows the original 1952 cover art by Garth Williams for the beloved children's book, Charlotte's Web by E.B. White, which sold for $155,350 in a New York City auction conducted by Heritage Auctions, Friday, October 15, 2010.

NEW YORK (AP)—The original 1952 cover art for "Charlotte's Web" has sold at auction in New York City for more than $155,000.

Heritage Auctions says the artwork drawn by Garth Williams fetched more than five times its estimated sale price on Friday and is a record for any of Williams' art.

Heritage spokesman Barry Sandoval says the buyer is a New York collector who wishes to remain anonymous.

He says 42 of the late artist's original illustrations for the celebrated children's book were auctioned by his family and brought in more than $780,000. The total included the buyer's premium of 19.5 percent for all winning bids.

E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web" is about a friendship between Charlotte the spider and a pig named Wilbur who is saved from slaughter.

Husband's dinner time is bedtime for his sleepy wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My hardworking husband of four years, "Brian," loves to eat out three or four nights a week. It's nice not to have to cook, and I have become spoiled. He loves treating. We take along friends, family members or business associates.

The problem is, Brian wants to sit for two or three hours, have drinks and talk before he eats. He insists that I wait until he is ready to eat. Sometimes it becomes as late as 10 p.m.

I have a sensitive stomach and I need to eat early. I have eaten dinner early my entire life. If I eat late, my stomach goes into knots, and by the time we get home it's time for bed because I'm sleepy. Brian can sleep on a full stomach with no problem. I get acid reflux.

Brian expects our guests to adhere to his routine. Even when we have cookouts, everyone must wait for the entree. He says, "Well, they'll just have to wait. I don't want anyone to eat and run."

I put out appetizers, but it's not enough to hold them. If we don't wait, he gets angry and threatens not to have another cookout. I have explained that not everyone can eat so late.

Abby, what's your perspective on this? Who's right here?

HUNGRY IN ARIZONA

DEAR HUNGRY: You are. It appears you married a hardworking, self-centered drinker with a need to control everyone around him. A generous host takes the needs and wishes of his guests into consideration. A selfish one behaves like your husband does. Frankly, I'm surprised that anyone who didn't have to would accept more than two dinner or cookout invitations.

You should eat something before going to dinner with him and do the same at home whenever you need to. If you don't, it could have a serious, negative impact on your health.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago I made a horrible mistake. I broke the law and was convicted of three misdemeanors. I live in a small town, so the news became very public. I lost my job, many friends and my reputation.

I am still working to rebuild my life and find some sense of normalcy for myself and my family. I have been in therapy since the event and have learned a lot from this experience.

My problem is, my brother will not forgive me. He holds it over my head and refuses to support me in my efforts. He said I deserve whatever I get. I love my brother and am close to my other siblings. I don't want our relationship to be estranged, but I can't take his judgmental attitude anymore. What can I do?

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SIB

DEAR SIB: Because you are in therapy, discuss this with your therapist. I assume that having been convicted, you have paid —or are repaying—your debt to society. You are working to rebuild your life; you are doing all you can right now to get back on track. You are close with your other siblings, so work with that. Do not measure your worth through your brother's eyes. He may not be capable of forgiveness. And if that's the case, it's a reflection of who he is—not who you are.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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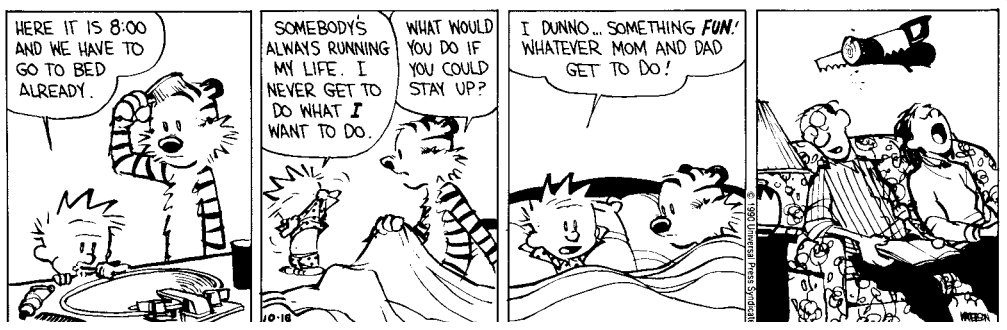
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE IT IS 8:00 AND WE HAVE TO GO TO BED ALREADY.
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS RUNNING MY LIFE. I NEVER GET TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU COULD STAY UP?
I DUNNO... SOMETHING FUN, WHATEVER MOM AND DAD GET TO DO!
10-18
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I HAD THE STRANGEST BOY IN THE STORE TODAY.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Universal Uclick
HE WAS OBSESSED WITH GETTING THE NEW "WIMPY KID" BOOK.
10-18
IT WAS DISTURBING HOW IRRATIONAL AND EXCITED HE WAS.
OOOOH!! JUST 5 WEEKS UNTIL THE NEW "HARRY POTTER" MOVIE! I'M NOT GOING TO SLEEP UNTIL IT COMES OUT!
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENO, I HAVE SOMETHING SHOCKING TO TELL YOU. BRACE YOURSELF. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET SCARED OR PANIC BECAU
JUST TELL ME!
I THINK OUR FRIDGE IS HAUNTED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT.
OH, BROTHER! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE...
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
AND IT'S DRINKING YOUR BEER.
AUGGHH!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Metric measure
5 Pouch
8 Portent
12 Old Italian money
13 Mentalist Geller
14 Inlet
15 Second-hand
16 Wrist adornment
18 Member of the service?
20 Former Houston squad
21 Awe-struck
23 Homer's interjection
24 Tract
28 Fork feature
31 Literary collection
32 Fully filled
34 Meadow
35 Youngster
37 Seven-line verse
39 Id counterpart
41 Round bread of India
42 Parka
45 Some hosiery
49 Bedspread
51 "American —"
52 Hastens
53 Guitar's kin
54 Mediocre
55 Blunders
56 Club —
57 Genealogy chart

DOWN
1 Oversupply
2 Obey reveille
3 Vicinity
4 Wild and crazy
5 Just outside the Arctic Circle
6 Schedule abbr.
7 "Bye!"
8 Spotted wildcat
9 Potential mountain?
10 Always
11 Trawler gear
17 Spanish hero, with "El"
19 Grunting sounds
22 Board
24 Greet Fido
25 Whatever amount
26 "What Not to Wear" specialty
27 Occupied
29 Born
30 Chow down
33 Crucial time
36 Exit
38 Sign up
40 Rowing tool
42 Rue the run
43 Bleak, as a film
44 Supermodel Heidi
46 Smell ...
47 ... and its detector
48 — gin fizz
50 — out a living

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	B	A	R	B	Q	■	S	C	H	E	M	E
B	U	R	E	A	U	■	E	R	A	S	E	R
O	R	A	N	G	E	■	R	O	S	T	E	R
A	L	M	A	■	S	K	E	W	■	H	T	S
■	■	■	L	A	T	E	■	D	I	E	■	■
C	S	I	■	R	I	N	D	■	A	T	O	P
O	U	T	O	F	O	N	E	S	M	I	N	D
S	P	A	N	■	N	E	R	O	■	C	O	Q
■	■	■	L	E	T	■	D	I	N	O	■	■
F	B	I	■	H	A	Y	S	■	W	H	E	E
A	R	A	B	I	C	■	I	S	L	E	T	S
C	A	N	I	N	E	■	O	P	E	R	A	S
T	E	S	T	E	D	■	N	A	T	A	L	■

Saturday's answer 10-18

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 23; Freida Pinto, 26; Wynton Marsalis, 49; Jean-Claude Van Damme, 50

Happy Birthday: Strategize and organize and you will surpass any obstacles that get in your way this year. Use your imagination and intuition. You have to be proactive and progressive in order to get what you want. Take a leadership position. Your numbers are 9, 11, 23, 25, 27, 35, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't rely on others when you are the one who has to make the effort. It's important not to let anyone hold you back. Show what you have to offer and how valuable you are. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Partnerships will play an important role in your life. Social networking will pay off. The effort you put forth now will bring about positive changes and doors will open. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't become sidetracked by emotional instability or troubles caused by those dependent on you. Your ability to put your own flavor in the mix will show everyone how unique and valuable you are. Hard work and dedication will pay off. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take action instead of waiting for someone else to initiate what needs to be done. You may not like change but today it will be beneficial where work, money and your status are concerned. Don't be afraid to show your emotions; it will help you get your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Concentrate on your home, family and contracts. It's important that you do not become angry or let the people you are dealing with know your thoughts. Listen, wait and watch. Stay calm and you will come out on top financially. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Deception is apparent at an emotional level. Assumptions will not be accurate and can cause you to make a mistake. A change of plans or within your friendships can be expected, especially if there is money involved. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Serious effort will bring results. You can dazzle everyone with your unique way of doing things. Present and promote your plans through social networking. Emotional connections with children or seniors will open your eyes to new possibilities. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's time to let your emotions take over—talk from the heart about your plans for the future. Not everyone will like what you have to say but you will feel so much better once you have your plans on the table for all to see. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Let your intuition guide you and you will instinctively know what's expected of you. Don't let unfortunate changes at home or in your personal life cause you to overreact or be overindulgent. Stay calm. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give in to your needs but not your whims. Make everything you do count. Don't leave any room for error or criticism. Learn from past mistakes. Complete whatever chores you have left undone. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Get serious about your future. Take stock of what you own and what you owe. You can make some worthwhile changes that will ease your stress and your bankbook. Changes you make to your residence will help your overhead. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put your plan on paper and run it by someone you can trust. Delving into the unfamiliar or trying something obscure will help you get a better handle on existing possibilities. Put the past behind you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an organizer and instinctively know what your next move should be. You are creative, innovative and an opportunist.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2	3	7		4		9
	9						2	
		6				7		
			6		2			3
3			4	5	9			8
4			1		7			
		4				2		
	1						8	
2		7		1	6	5		4

Difficulty Level ★ 10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	5	8	1	4	2	3	9
8	9	3	7	2	5	1	6	4
2	4	1	6	3	9	8	5	7
5	8	4	2	6	1	7	9	3
1	3	9	4	7	8	6	2	5
7	2	6	5	9	3	4	1	8
4	1	7	3	5	2	9	8	6
3	6	2	9	8	7	5	4	1
9	5	8	1	4	6	3	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIRST AID **Solution: 8 letters**

E	C	N	A	L	U	B	M	A	N	U	A	L	S	S
N	M	L	L	A	C	I	T	O	I	B	I	T	N	A
C	P	E	R	O	X	I	D	E	S	S	R	O	G	A
O	H	A	R	I	N	S	E	D	P	A	I	U	A	N
U	A	N	D	G	E	L	E	L	I	T	E	C	U	T
R	R	S	O	S	E	E	I	N	U	C	R	H	Z	I
A	M	R	S	T	L	N	B	A	N	D	A	G	E	S
G	A	E	E	B	T	I	C	E	P	A	C	K	T	E
E	C	T	E	I	S	O	E	Y	E	S	A	E	R	P
M	Y	S	I	N	F	E	C	T	E	D	R	E	O	T
E	O	I	N	T	M	E	N	T	W	I	S	S	P	I
N	T	L	S	K	I	N	S	A	L	W	O	R	P	Ⓒ
T	S	B	E	E	S	C	R	E	A	M	S	U	U	Ⓤ
S	E	R	C	S	E	T	I	B	E	K	A	N	S	Ⓣ
E	R	U	T	C	A	R	F	N	R	U	B	N	U	Ⓢ

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Last Saturday's Answer: Stencils

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE GUARDIANSHIP OF F.E.P., R.E.P., P.S.E.P., R.J.O.M., J.T.P. and J.T.P., Minor Children, By THERESITA ALDAN PAULIS, Petitioner.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0452

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that the above entitled case is set for a Guardianship Hearing on Monday, November 8, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A.

SO ORDERED, this 5th day of October, 2010.

/s/ ELSA DUENAS-NIETO
DEPUTY CLERK III

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Saipan Tribune

PACIFIC POWER ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the position of Executive Director of the Pacific Power Association (PPA).

The PPA is an international inter-governmental agency, and a Member of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP). The PPA's role is to improve the performance of the region's power utilities understanding that good performing power utilities contribute to the economic development of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and assist with poverty alleviation.

It carries this out through the sharing of each other's expertise, experience and resources in training, secondments, utility information, management, overall functions and other activities of benefit to the members and their PICTs.

The Association comprises an Active Membership of 25 power utilities across the Pacific Islands region and more than fifty-six (56) Allied Members from New Zealand, Australia, USA, Germany, Canada, Japan and the Pacific region who are actively involved in the power industry in the Pacific region

The PPA represents the Pacific islands power sector at international and regional fora, and interacts closely with a wide range of bilateral and multilateral development partners including the European Union, the Asian Development Bank, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA for funding of regional programmes. It also liaises and interacts with Regional bodies such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, IUCN, University of the South Pacific and other established regional organizations in areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

The Executive Director manages the affairs of the PPA under the guidelines given in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and as directed by the Board.

The Executive Director is responsible and fully accountable to the Board of Directors comprising the Chief Executives of the member island power utilities, and a representative of the Allied Members.

The PPA Secretariat manages an annual budget of approximately US$500,000 from membership contributions and is supplemented by funds sourced through development partners' support. Some of the key responsibilities involve supervision the Secretariat staff, supervising consultants, project management, directing the Association's regional programmes, managing the Association's funds, maintaining support from the development partners', liaising and coordinating member services and organizing annual meetings and conferences.

The position requires a person professionally qualified electrical engineer recognized by international institutions with at least ten (10) years in power utilities with experience at senior management level for five (5) of those years, preferably within the Pacific Island's region. The position demands skills in forging and maintaining an association with a large and geographically isolated membership, a knowledge and interest of outside support institutions, and strong consensus behind the Association's programme. This requires leadership, managerial skills, diplomacy, and excellent communication and analytical skills. In addition to these skills, the successful candidate must have a good understanding of the whole of the Pacific Islands region and its peoples and cultures.

The position is base at the PPA Secretariat office located in Suva, Fiji, but will require extensive travel throughout the region and external to the region. The appointment carries an attractive remuneration package, payable in US dollars, which will be based on the qualifications and experience of the successful applicant. At present Fiji tax on this salary will be payable under the laws of Fiji. The appointment will be for three years initially, renewable for a further three years on agreement with the Board. The employment contract will be executed under the laws and jurisdiction of the Republic of Fiji.

Further information on the PPA is available by contacting the Deputy Executive Director on his email address at gordonc@ppa.org.fj and by accessing the PPA website at www.ppa.org.fj. Applicants must provide full information on relevant qualifications and experience and should give the names and contact details of at least three (3) referees with whom the applicant has been associated professionally. Applications must be received by no later than Close of Business Tuesday 9 November 2010, Cook Islands Time.

Applications should be addressed to the :

Chairman
Pacific Power Association,
Mr. Apii Timoti
Chief Executive Officer
Te Aponga Uira O Tumu-Te-Varovaro
P.O. Box 112,
Tutakimoa Road,
Avarua, Rarotonga.
COOK ISLANDS.
Tel: (682) 20 054 Fax: (682) 21 944

Applications can be also emailed to the Chairman, PPA at atimoti@electricity.co.ck

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Lincecum outduels Halladay, Giants lead NLCS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—All those derisive whistles sounded like cheers to Tim Lincecum.

The Freak outdueled Roy Halladay, Cody Ross hit a pair of solo homers and the San Francisco Giants beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 Saturday night in the NL championship series opener.

In a mega-hyped matchup between marquee pitchers, neither starter came close to matching his sensational postseason debut last week. Both gave up homers to No. 8 hitters.

"It was big, it sets the pace for the series," Lincecum said.

Halladay's bid for a second straight no-hitter lasted until Ross connected with one out in the third.

Lincecum, who tossed a two-hitter in the division series, gave up three runs on homers to Jayson Werth and Carlos Ruiz in seven innings.

But Lincecum got the big outs when he needed them, and the Giants earned their fourth one-run win in the playoffs. The two-time NL champion Phillies lost their first series opener since getting swept by Colorado in 2007.

"I don't think we can do nothing to bring this game back tonight," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "It's a loss. So we come out tomorrow, and we come out and play in that moment, try to win that game. That's what we've got to do."

Game 2 is Sunday night. Jonathan Sanchez tries to send the Giants back to San Francisco just two wins from their first World Series appearance since 2002. Roy Oswalt goes for the Phillies.

Halladay threw the second no-hitter in postseason history in a 4-0 win over Cincinnati in the first-round opener. The only runner he allowed was a fifth-inning walk to Jay Bruce.

Pitching on nine days' rest, Halladay didn't have the same, dominant stuff. He allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings.

"You find out what you're made of. You never expect it to be easy," Halladay said.

A day after Halladay's gem, Lincecum had 14 strikeouts in San Francisco's 1-0 win over Atlanta. He gave up six hits and struck out eight against the Phillies.

Lincecum, the reigning two-time NL Cy Young Award winner, had some adventures with a bat in his hands, though.

The notoriously tough Philly fans came up with a unique way to mock Lincecum instead of the usual boos. They serenaded him with whistles when he batted in the fifth and seventh, presumably poking fun at his long, shaggy hair.

"I must have a really nice butt," Lincecum said. "I was hearing a lot of them."

His first time up, Lincecum struck out, spinning on one leg after swinging at a slow curve.

Lincecum gave way to Javier Lopez, who got two outs in the eighth. All-Star closer Brian Wilson finished with a four-out save.

The Phillies led the majors in wins (97) for the first time in franchise history, captured their fourth straight division title and are trying to become the first NL team in 66 years to win three straight pennants.

The Giants are seeking their first World Series title since moving from New York for the 1958 season.

AP

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum throws during the first inning of Game 1 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Philadelphia Phillies Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Ross, a Phillies nemesis, ripped a 2-0 pitch to the seats in left to give the Giants a 2-1 lead in the fifth. He was 3 for 16 off Halladay before taking him deep his first two at-bats.

"It's just awesome to be in this situation right now, to be able to come here and help this team where it wanted to be," Ross said.

San Francisco got two key hits with two outs in the sixth to increase the advantage to 4-1. Halladay thought he struck out Pat Burrell to end the inning and walked off the mound after an 0-2 pitch only to return because plate umpire Derryl Cousins called it a ball. Burrell hit an RBI double on the next pitch - left fielder Raul Ibanez made a leaping attempt in front of the wall and the ball bounced out of his glove.

"Apparently, it was close," Burrell said of the near strikeout. "I was just trying to get a good swing."

Juan Uribe followed with an RBI single up the middle, scoring pinch-runner Nate Schierholtz to give the Giants a three-run cushion.

Philadelphia quickly answered in the bottom half. Chase Utley hustled out an infield single and Werth hit a two-run shot to right-center to cut it to 4-3.

Halladay retired the first seven batters before Ross drove a fastball into the seats in left-center. Players in the Giants' dugout jumped out of their seats and a fired-up Burrell smacked the railing as Ross rounded the bases.

Ruiz led off the bottom half with an opposite-field shot to right to tie it up at 1. Halladay followed with a single, getting his second postseason hit before giving up two. After Shane Victorino bounced into a double play, Placido Polanco lined a double.

Lincecum then walked Utley and drew a visit from manager Bruce Bochy after gesturing and yelling at Cousins. Bochy's pep talk worked. Lincecum struck out Ryan Howard swinging at a slider after a passed ball put runners at second and third.

"I just wanted to calm him down," Bochy said. "He's really hyped up a little bit. He was in a jam, wanted to make sure he kept his poise ad he made some good pitches to Howard."

The Phillies wasted a chance in the second when Howard, the only major league player to have as many as three career homers off Lincecum, lined a double to left-center to start the inning. But Lincecum fanned Werth. Jimmy Rollins popped out two pitches after Cousins mistakenly rung him up on strike two. Ibanez flied out to center, stranding Howard.

Philadelphia eliminated the Reds in three games for its first postseason sweep in round one. The Giants beat the Braves in four games - all decided by one run.

Halladay lived up to giant expectations in his first season in Philadelphia after 12 years with Toronto. The 33-year-old right-hander finished 21-10 with a 2.44 ERA. He tied CC Sabathia for most wins and led the majors in complete games (nine), shutouts (four) and innings (250 2-3).

Halladay threw a perfect game in May, made his seventh All-Star game and is the leading candidate to win his second Cy Young.

He was acquired from the Blue Jays on the same day the Phillies traded Cliff Lee to Seattle. Lee is 6-0 in the postseason, including 4-0 for the Phillies last year, heading into his start for Texas against the New York Yankees in Game 3 of the ALCS on Monday night.

Lincecum had an up-and-down year after dominating in his first two full seasons. The 26-year-old righty had a career-worst five-start losing streak in August, but rebounded nicely and finished 16-10 with a 3.43 ERA.

Rangers even ALCS with 7-2 victory over Yankees

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—There were no pep talks, no extended discussions after a meltdown by the Texas Rangers' bullpen.

Just quick redemption and the Rangers' first postseason victory at home in the franchise's 50 seasons. Neftali Feliz fired a final fastball and it was over. This was a lead Texas did not let slip away against the New York Yankees.

A night after a bullpen debacle, Elvis Andrus got the Rangers off to a running start as they bolted out to another big lead, Colby Lewis pitched effectively into the sixth inning and five relievers made it stand in a 7-2 victory over the Yankees. The AL championship series is even at a game each.

"That's what they have been doing for us all year. That's how we got to this point," manager Ron Washington said. "Last night, we didn't get it done. We didn't make any excuses about it. We took the whipping, we took a shower. ... I was going to give the ball back to those guys if it presented itself. It presented itself, they did a great job. I expected that."

New York got only one hit over 3 1-3 scoreless innings against the bullpen this time, including three relievers that were part of the Game 1 breakdown.

The best-of-seven series now switches to Yankee Stadium for Game 3 on Monday night, when Texas will have hired ace left-hander Cliff Lee on the mound. Lee has won his last four starts in New York, including a complete game for Philadelphia in last year's World Series.

"Nobody wants to have a bad taste in their mouth, especially five games going forward," reliever Darren O'Day said. "Really, we should be up 2-0, but things like that happen. ... A lot of good things happened the last two days."

Texas has been in control except for that eighth inning in Game 1, when the defending World Series champion Yankees had a five-run outburst against five pitchers for a 6-5 victory even though CC Sabathia lasted only four innings.

The Rangers again built an early 5-0 lead in Game 2 - and stayed ahead to snap a 10-game postseason losing streak against New York.

New York's postseason winning streak over the Rangers included knocking them out of the playoffs in 1996, 1998 and 1999, Texas' only other postseason appearances.

These Rangers don't plan to be easily dismissed by the Bronx Bombers, who have won 27 World Series titles and 40 pennants.

"Today was a lot more important for the Rangers after having lost that lead yesterday," Yankees DH Lance Berkman said. "You knew it would be a hard-fought series. "

Andrus led off the first with an infield single on a chopper that deflected off starter Phil Hughes' glove. Andrus went to second on a wild pitch, then stole third before Josh Hamilton drew a walk.

With Nelson Cruz batting and two outs, Hamilton took off for second base, and Andrus ran home when Jorge Posada threw the ball to second. The double-steal put Texas up 1-0 before Cruz's inning-ending strikeout.

"Elvis got on and basically took three bags," Lewis said.

"Opportunity seemed right, so I took a chance. That's the way we play," Washington said. "It worked. Got us going."

David Murphy homered off the facade of the second deck of seats in the second for a 2-0 lead, then an inning later he and Bengie Molina had consecutive RBI doubles to make it 5-0.

"This team has been resilient all year long so it's no reason it should be any different now," Murphy said.

Texas had lost its first seven home playoffs games, the most by any team before finally getting a victory in front of its own fans, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Five of those losses had been to New York, plus two to Tampa Bay in the first round.

Andy Pettitte pitches for the Yankees against Lee on Monday night. Manager Joe Girardi decided before this series started to swap the rotation order of Hughes and Pettitte.

Goodell: Favre, league official to meet next week

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says a league official will meet with Brett Favre next week as part of an investigation into allegations the quarterback sent racy text messages and lewd photos to a Jets game hostess in 2008 when he played for New York.

Goodell made his comments Saturday during a sideline interview with NBC as he attended the Western Michigan-Notre Dame game. The commissioner said someone "from our staff" would meet with the Vikings quarterback and three-time league MVP.

The NFL Network later said the meeting would be Tuesday in Minnesota with a member of the league's security team. An NFL spokesman declined further comment.

Goodell said Tuesday he had no plans to meet with Favre himself, but added that it's something that he would do if it was warranted.

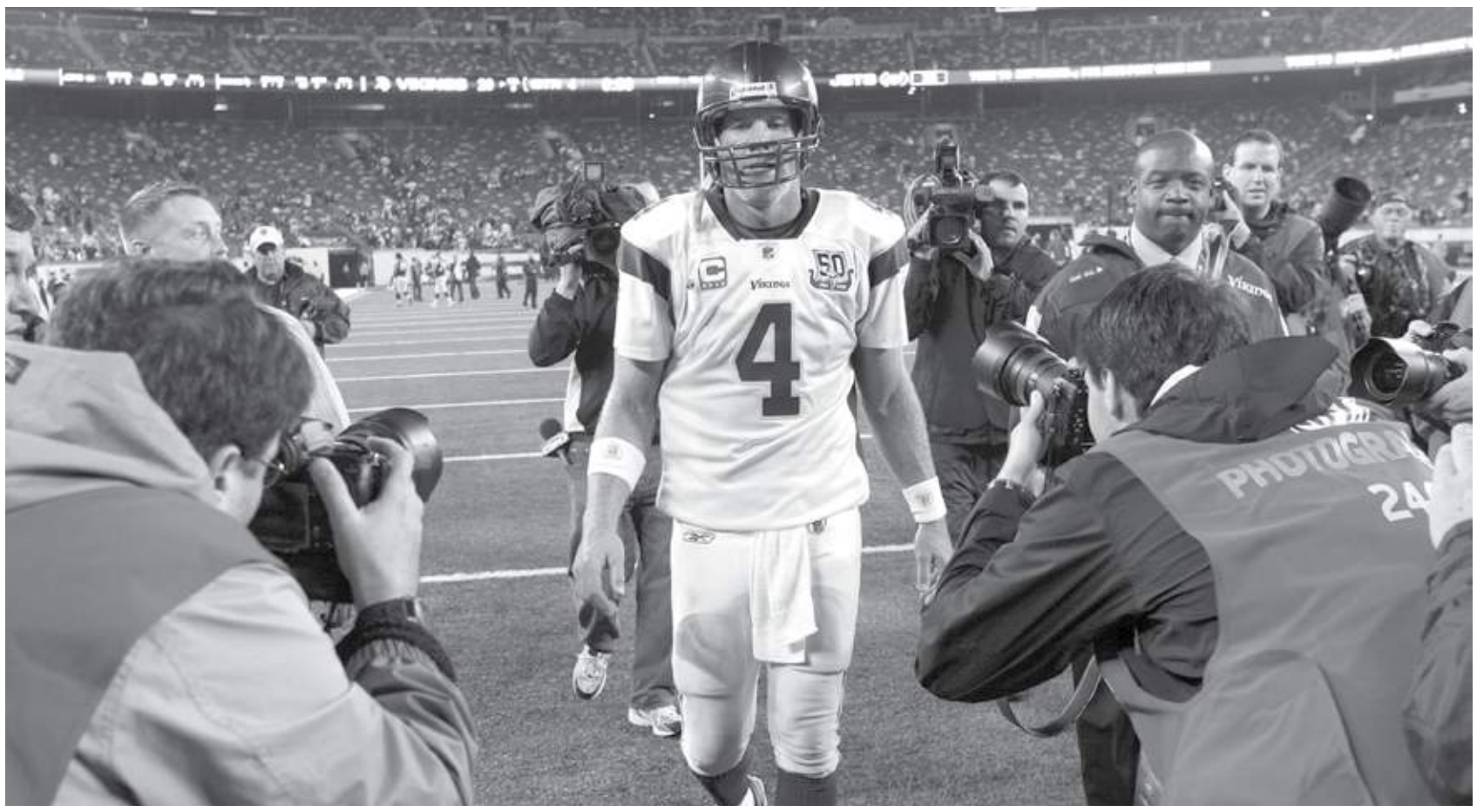
Favre has been listed as questionable by Minnesota for Sunday's game against Dallas with tendinitis in his right elbow. He has started a record 289 straight games.

The NFL Network also said the league had not yet met with Jenn Sterger, the woman who allegedly received the messages and photos from Favre. Her manager declined comment.

Last week, Deadspin posted a video that contained the messages and voicemails, along with several below-the-waist photos - said to be of Favre - that were allegedly sent to Sterger's cell phone. Sterger, now a TV personality for the Versus network, did not grant an interview to Deadspin for the report. The website said it bought the material from a third party it did not identify.

Deadspin also reported that Favre pursued two female massage therapists who worked part time for the Jets. The website didn't identify the women, however the Jets have said they gave contact information about them to the league.

Depending on what the league's investigation finds, Favre could be fined or suspended under the NFL's personal conduct policy.



AP

In this Oct. 12, 2010, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre walks off the field after losing, 29-20, to the New York Jets in an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J.

Melo still won't commit to Nuggets

LOS ANGELES—Carmelo Anthony knows he'll likely be wearing a Denver Nuggets uniform to start the season. He's accepted that fact, and he's vowed to stay professional and play hard—even though the entire NBA knows he and his representatives have sought a trade. But will he still be smiling come January if the Nuggets haven't found him a new home?

"Anything can happen," Anthony said Thursday morning. "As of right now, I'm here."

In other words: Who knows?

Anthony continues to say only that he intends to keep his options open. He won't even publicly acknowledge he wants a trade because doing so would bring a fine from the NBA. Still, he also has yet to publicly commit to staying in Denver, and he's certainly in no rush to sign the three-year, $64 million contract extension the Nuggets have offered. Back in June, Anthony said he was concerned about the franchise's future, and it's clear that hasn't changed.

If Anthony opts out of his contract this summer, he'll join Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin and guards Arron Afflalo and J.R. Smith as free agents. Chauncey Billups also could hit the market if the Nuggets pay the $3.7 million buyout in his contract. Even center Nene isn't a lock to come back if the Nuggets decide not to pick up his $11.6 million option. Coach George Karl, who missed the end of last season while recovering from throat cancer, is in the last year of his contract – though one league source said the team has expressed interest in keeping him if he's healthy enough for the grind. The Nuggets also lost two assistant coaches—Tim Grgurich and Jamahl Mosley—who were close to Anthony. And the team's ownership didn't renew the contracts of front-office executives Mark Warkentien and Rex Chapman during the summer.

Suffice to say, the Nuggets hardly look like the picture of stability.

"I have my reasons why I am keeping my options open," Anthony said. "…People that really know basketball, know the sport and know the business of basketball, understand and know why I'd be keeping my options open."

League sources said Anthony would prefer a trade to the New York Knicks or Chicago Bulls, but the Knicks have yet to put together an attractive-enough offer and the Bulls refused to trade center Joakim Noah, who they recently signed to a five-year, $60 million contract extension. The New Jersey Nets had substantive talks about acquiring Anthony in a four-team deal that would have brought rookie Derrick Favors to Denver, but the Nuggets were reluctant to complete the deal.

League sources said the Nuggets could eventually revive the Favors talks, but, for now, they prefer to shop for a better offer. Team officials aren't close on a deal and will likely wait until after Dec. 15 when their options could expand because free agents signed this summer will be eligible to be traded.

Anthony knows there also is a chance the Nuggets could keep him for the duration of the season, which is why he has remained patient. He routinely discusses his situation with friends in the league, including Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Paul.

"I understand the business of basketball," Anthony said. "I'm not easy to do something with. I understand that. As far as trade talks, I'll let them deal with that behind closed doors."

Anthony said he has a solid relationship with the Nuggets' new vice president of basketball operations, Masai Ujiri, who has continued to keep him updated about any developments. Ujiri also speaks weekly with Anthony's agent, Leon Rose.

"Masai has been doing a great job of communicating whatever is going on out there," Anthony said. "He's been letting me know what's going on, and he's been going about it the right way. There is an open line and communication. That's a key."

Anthony was booed briefly at an event in suburban Denver, but he also was greeted warmly by Nuggets fans during the team's first preseason game at Pepsi Center.

"I get the same thing: 'We want you here.' 'We love you.' 'You are Denver.' 'You are the face of the city,' " Anthony said. "Every now and then you get a couple people that say, 'Leave,' and 'Get outta here.' But deep down inside they really want you to stay."

Karl has praised Anthony's professionalism, saying the All-Star forward has had the best training camp of his career.

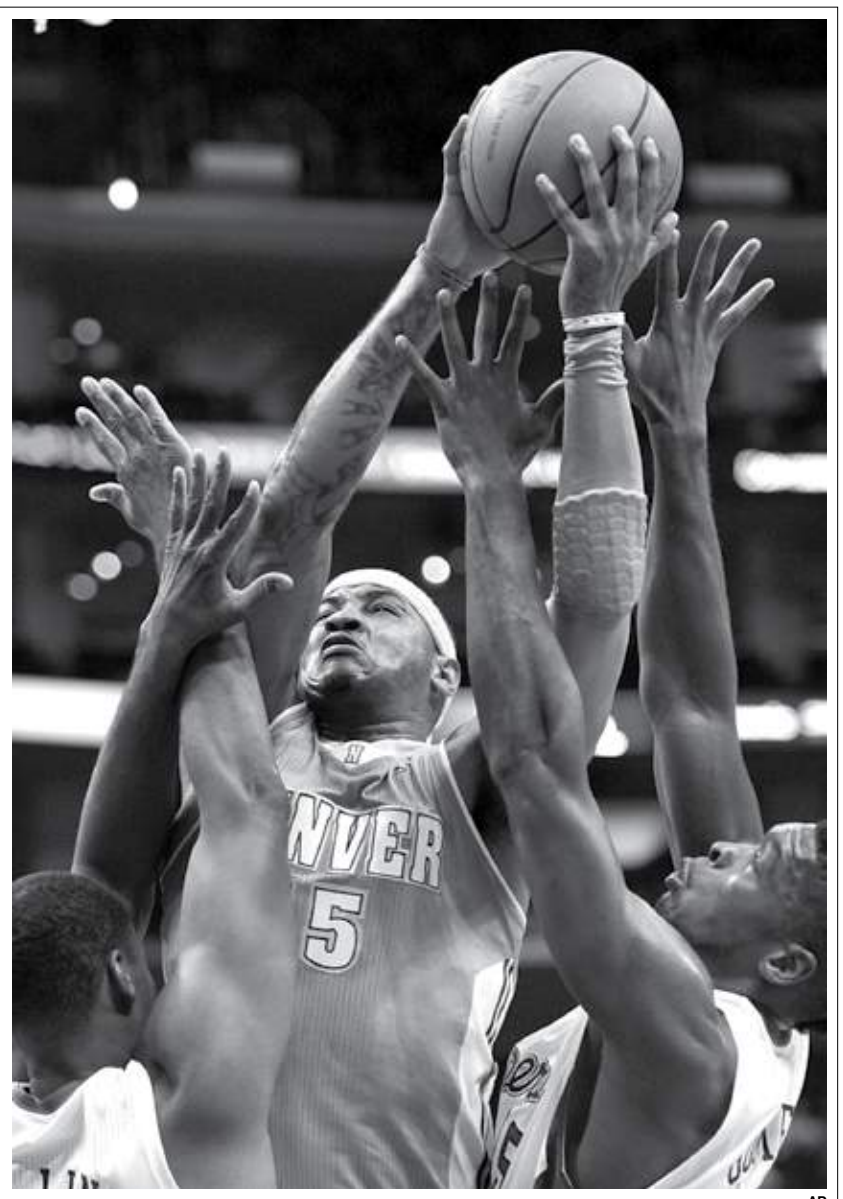
"It's hard for me to act up when I get in the gym," Anthony said. "Once I'm on the court, I'm on the court whether it's in a game or it's practice. I don't really think about too much off-the-court stuff when I'm actually on the court. That's the easy part for me."

The question is whether on not that will last. Not even Anthony disputes the Nuggets' talent. Their problem has been staying healthy. Chris Andersen and Martin are sidelined, and new forward Al Harrington just went down with a foot injury. If the team starts slowly, Anthony likely won't be pleased.

But if the Nuggets come together? If they make a run in the West?

Even then, Anthony doesn't sound ready to commit to staying.

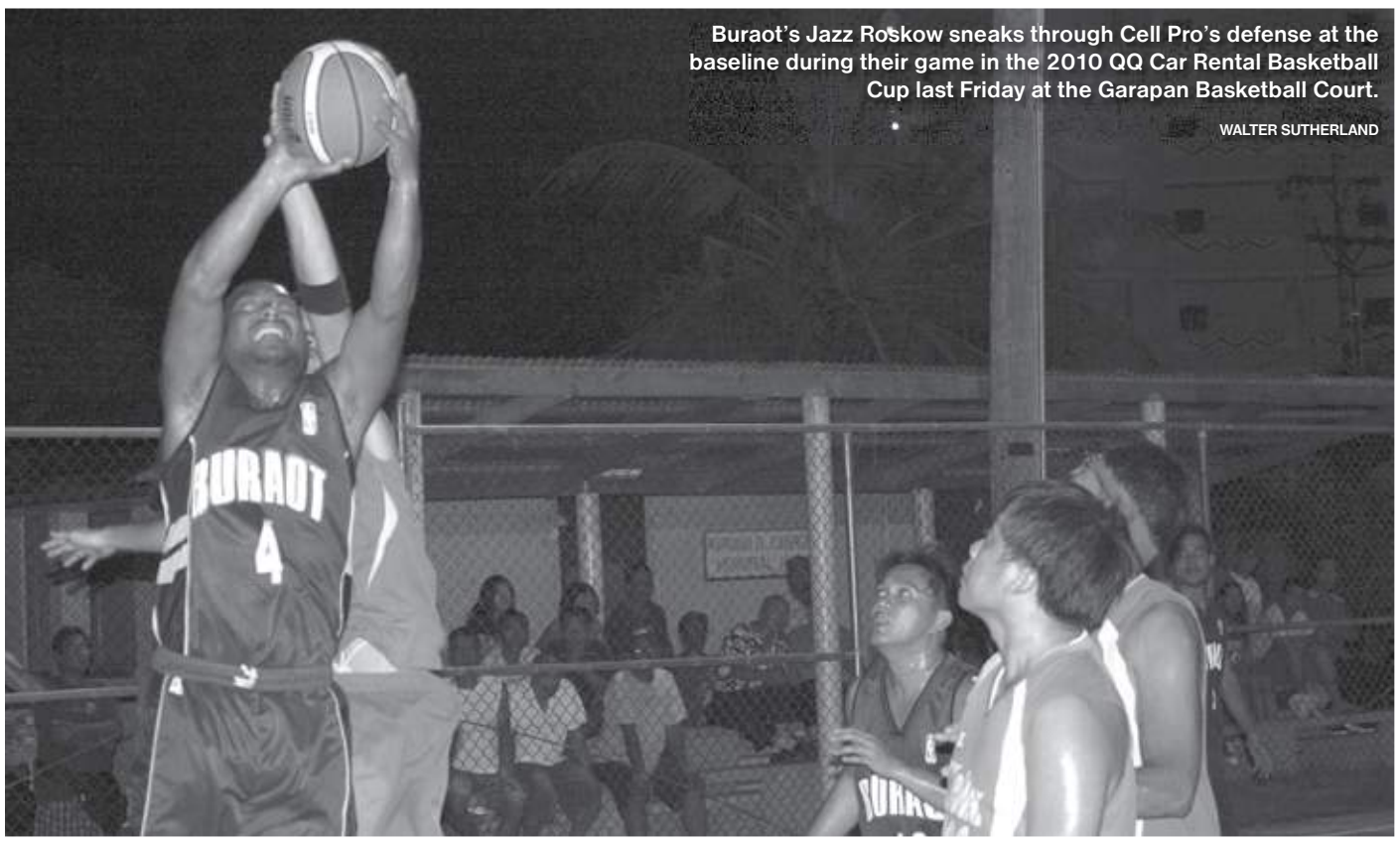
"If I'm here after the season, then after the season we can talk again," he said. "…I'd deal with it when that time comes."



AP

Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony, center, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Clippers' James Collins, left, and Ryan Gomes defend during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Buraot, Atalig Associates win in QQ Cup



Buraot's Jazz Roskow sneaks through Cell Pro's defense at the baseline during their game in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Buraot and Wings Travel recorded contrasting wins in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the first game, Buraot had a second-half breakaway to cruise to a 97-81 victory over Cellular Pro. In the second game, Wings Travel engaged Atalig Associates in tight race for an 81-76 win.

Buraot improved to a 3-4 record, while Cell Pro dropped to a 2-3 slate. Wings Travel notched its fourth win in six games for third place in the team standings behind Ferrera Builders (6-1) and Docomo Pacific (5-1), while Atalig evened out with its 3-3 mark.

Dave Sablan and Angelo Fernando joined forces in Buraot's easy win, firing 28 and 24 points, respectively.

Sablan had nine points in the opening period of help Buraot build a three-point lead, 19-16. Then Fernando delivered 10 points in the second quarter to go with Sablan's eight, stretching their lead to eight at the half, 48-40.

Fernando continued to pile up points in the second quarter and with his teammates also stepping up in the third period, Buraot started pulling away, 74-64, heading into the last quarter.

Fernando and Sablan added seven and six more markers, respectively, in the fourth as Buraot ran away with it in the end.

Cellular Pro's Roger Herrera led all scorers with 34 in a losing effort.

Wings Travel and Atalig Associates were all knotted up, 16-16, after the first quarter. Aquino led the way for Wings Travel with nine points, while Mel Capalad paced Atalig with seven. It was still a close game after the second quarter with Wings Travel ahead by only a deuce, 38-36.

Atalig fought back after the break to take a one-point lead, 55-54, heading into the final period. Atalig shared the ball well in the third and its defense contained Wings Travel to 16 points.

Then after going cold in the third, Aquino caught fire in the fourth, making 11 points for a game-high 27 markers. Wings Travel managed the clock well in the final canto and converted five clutch free throws in the end to seal the victory.

First Game

Buraot 97 – Sablan 28, Fernando 24, Gapor 22, Swaim 10, Bautista 6, Roskow 5.

Cellular Pro 81– Herrera 34, Palacios 11, Rotap 11, Hernandez 9, Dulfo 5, Pablo 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 48-40, 74-64, 97-81.

Second Game

Wings Travel 82 – Aquino 27, Talania 16, Morales 12, Stafford 11, Guiang 10, Berline 4, Yalung 2.

Atalig Associates 76 – Tamayo 17, T. Santos 13, Tengco 12, M. Capalad 9, J. Mina 8, Lisua 5, Hernandez 3, Pua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-17, 38-36, 54-55, 82-76.

JAZZY

From Page 28

the leaders past Chalan Kanoa.

"I cramped twice and decided to slow down. I caught up with them at Aquarius Beach Towel and from there kept pace with the group," said Garcia, who had cramps on his way up to Talafofo and then heading to Capital Hill from the tough ride in Kingfisher.

"I knew if I pushed myself hard after the Kingfisher ride, I will lose, so I just paced myself and then sprinted in the last few meters of the race," Garcia added.

In the women's division, Mieko Carey came in first at the 1:40:59.50 mark. Carey was part of the lead group on the way up to Kingfisher, but was left behind when she slowed down heading back to PIC. Carey finished sixth overall and was way ahead of women's division second placer Kimiko Hasegawa (2:46:35) and third finisher Kanae Quinn (2:46:47).

In the mountain bike division, Nap Dizon finished about eight minutes ahead of runner-up Noel Altamirano and third placer Bob Ferrer. Dizon timed in at 1:28:72 against Altamirano and Ferrer's 1:46:06.12 and 1:46:06.53, respectively.

In the women's division, Mamiko Oshima-Berger finished first with a time of 2:10:53.50. Jackie Van Dam was second with her time of 2:18:10.09, while Maricel Mahilum came in third at the 2:26:28.72 mark.

Except from a few flat tires, the more than 70 riders had a relatively good race, as the sun was mostly up and when a light shower came, most bikers were already at the finish line.

The pre-Hell course had riders leaving the PIC southern parking lot and heading south to the airport road and Tun Herman Pan Road before turning right at Isa Drive. From Isa Drive, they went to Chalan Talafofo, then to the Kingfisher Golf Links and back to Isa Drive. Riders raced down Capital Hill and turned right to Chalan Pale Arnold for a U-turn at Aqua Resort Club. From Aqua Resort, bikers headed back to the starting line, turned right at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, and then cruised along Beach Road back to PIC.

MDX

From Page 28

Wesley and a few seconds later, the two forwards were pushing each other.

Then players from both camps joined the heated scene, either to pacify or defend their teammates. Players ran to Cavite's bench and unfortunately someone threw the ball and hit a lady spectator, who sustained a small cut on her upper lip.

When referees and league officials stepped in and both camps cooled down, Wesley and Bernardo were thrown out of the game, while MDX was given a technical foul for going to Cavite's bench.

The game resumed with MDX way ahead, 92-85, and after the confrontation, players wisely stayed away from any contact and opted to pull up shots from outside.

Cavite dug itself in a deep hole early in the opening quarter when it went scoreless in the first six minutes of the game before Bernard Montano hit the team's first field goal. Cavite continued to struggle in the opening minutes of the second period before picking up the scoring midway.

However, by the end of the first half, MDX behind Dave Sablan's eight points was still way on top, 57-32.

In the first half, Cavite had difficulty shooting in its goal, which was half lit with the other bulb of the lighting facility not working.

When teams switched court, MDX surprisingly had little trouble making shots in the dimmer side of the court. The defending champion even canned baskets from all corners with Kelvin Fitial hitting two triples, Glenn Aquino and Wowie Abuel hitting long jumpers, and Kae Bernardo drilling undergoal stabs.

Cavite started connecting on its attempts in the second half, but could not scored points in streaks.

There was no way Cavite would have beaten a team that drew double figures from seven of its 10 players. MDX got 16 points from Fitial, 15 from Bon Tamayo, 14 from Sablan, 13 from Abuel, 12 from Bernardo, and 10 each from Aquino and Basilla.

James Villacrusis top-scored for Cavite with 20 points, while Bernard Montano and Rebuyon chipped in 12 each.

Cavite is out of the running for the second and last finals berth, while MDX will face SIP-Mobil today for the right to duel MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt in the championship round.

A win against SIP-Mobil will give MDX a chance for back-to-back titles. The defending champion swept SIP-Marianas Wireless in last year's finals.

MDX-Chow Queen 100 – Fitial 16, Tamayo 15, Sablan 14, Abuel 13, Bernardo 12, Aquino 10, Basilla 10, Pantaleon 4, C. De Vero 4, I. De Vero 3.

Cavite 82 – Villacrusis 20, Rebuyon 12, B. Montano 12, J. Montano 9, Barrios 9, Wesley 6, Hernandez 6, Umali 5, Artates 3.

Scoring by quarters: 32-4, 57-32, 82-46, 100-82.

BABAUTA

From Page 28

Hocog. The Korean pair placed second and went home with $600 after posting a net score of 68.60. Hocog and Yumul submitted a net score of 68.80 to get the third place prize of $400.

In the low gross category, Jess Wabol and Bae Yong Man also won $1,000 after recording the best score of the day at 62. Andy Choi and Jeon J. Lee were one shot short of the low gross winners and dropped to second place with their 63. The Korean duo pocketed $600.

Completing the Top 3 was the team of former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan and Manny Alvarez, who combined for a net 65 and won third place via a playoff on hole No. 12. Manibusan hit a birdie on the playoff hole to take home the third place honors and $400 cash prize.

Meanwhile, Hocog won the longest drive competition, Steve Nutting claimed the most accurate drive honors, and K.J. Kim topped the closest to the pin contest. Kim teed off from the par-3 No. 3 hole with his ball stopping 4"6' 1/2 from the cup. All three winners took home $257 cash each.

A buffet and raffle drawing took place near the driving range while the field waited for confirmation of the results. During the reception, organizers of the event thanked all participants, volunteers, and donors who supported the tournament's cause.

Part of the proceeds from the weekend tournament will go to the Commerce's scholarship fund.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Ogomoro's turn to deliver for the Ol'Aces, canning eight markers to pad their lead to double digits at the break, 44-30.

Ogomoro was still at it at the start of the second half, teaming up with Ton Webb in increasing the Ol'Aces led to 64-48. Ogumoro and Webb combined for 11 markers in the third period.

Then Maratita took over in the fourth with his 11 points to finish the job.

After falling behind by 14 at halftime, Rollers B regrouped and played better basketball in the second half, but still fell short against the much deeper bench of the Ol'Aces.

In the second game, the Rollers A schooled Rollers C right out of the gate. Brandon Aulerio caught fire early for Rollers A and tallied 13 points in the opening period. Rollers A almost doubled Rollers C's score after the first quarter, 23-12,

Then the Rollers A's Rainier Deleon Guerrero and Jose Basa scored six and five points, respectively, in the second to keep their double-digit lead intact, 38-37.

Aulerio led Rollers A anew at the start of the second half, hitting seven markers in the third. Rollers A kept its foot on the gas to push ahead, 56-35, with a quarter to go. Rollers C needed to make a stand in third, but was held to only eight points in that quarter. The game was out of reach for Rollers C midway in the fourth, allowing Rollers A to cruise to a 20-point win.

First Game

Ol'Aces 82 – Maratita 27, Ogomoro 17, Web 10, Tomokane 7, L. Rangamar 5, Dillay 4, Ichihara 4, Kautz 4, Taylor 4.

Rollers B 66 – Talalemotu 27, Ada 19, Hambrose 7, Darag 5, Cenir 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 44-30, 64-48, 82-66

Second Game

Rollers A 69 – Aulerio 22, Danas 12, De Leon Guerrero 12, Metran 6, Basa 5, J. Norita 5, Torres 3, Laniyo 2, Palacios 2.

Rollers C 49 – Mabini 11, Diaz 8, Iglecias 8, Francisco 6, Lee 6, P. Norita 4, Teregeyo 4, Rangamar 2, Yap 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 38-27, 56-35, 69-49.

Weekend Sports

Good week for sports community

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The week started good for the sports community as the Oleai Sports Complex was reopened.

The Rotary youth caging then resumed its games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after more than a week of break due to the government shutdown, while U18 matches in the NMIFA fall league returned to the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

At the resumption of the Rotary league, the Sonics defeated Rollers C, while MP United and Paire Football Club nailed separate victories in the U18 division of the NMIFA fall league.

Also winning in Week 3 of NMIFA league were boys U14's MP United, Paire Red, and Tan Holdings FC and girls U14's Matansa and MP United.

Joining last week's winners circle were Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Mieko Carey, MAFEA-Ali-i Konflikt, MAFEA-Ebisuya, VisMinda-Kids Cove, Rusty Musca, Gigi Zapanta, A.J. Aldan, IT&E, and Docomo Pacific.

Kabiriel and Carey topped the Inaugural Saipan Radar Run. Kabiriel was the first overall finisher in the 4.7-mile uphill race from Paupau Beach to Radar and back, completing the event in 35 minutes and 23 seconds. Carey was the fourth overall finisher and first female to make it to the finish line at the 38:48 mark.

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt notched the first finals ticket in the open division of the UFO caging after beating SIP-Mobil in the semifinals, 90-86. In the masters division, VisMinda-Kids Cove and MAFEA-Ebisuya booked semis tickets after downing MDX-Monster Energy Drink, 83-77, and Cabalen-Wings Travel, 87-80, respectively.

Still in basketball, the QQ Cup caging continued with Docomo Pacific beating Ferrera Builders, 88-83. The loss was Ferrera Builders' first in seven games. Also winning in the QQ league was IT&E, which prevailed over Buraot, 86-76.

Bowlers Musca, Zapanta, and Aldan ruled the Saipan Bowling Association's October roll-offs.

Musca took the Budweiser King of the Lanes monthly plum after tallying a four-game total of 998 pinfalls for a 188-pinfall win over runner-up Raymond Angeles (810). Zapanta was named Budweiser Queen of the Lanes after knocking down 724 pins in four games. Aldan went home with the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes monthly title after recording 641 pinfalls and besting five other youth keglers.

In other developments last week, two clubs named their respective teams that will compete in the 12th Annual Micronesia Cup in Palau.

Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club will field a men's team to defend its title in Palau. The squad is composed of Richard Sikkel, Gil Birnbrich, Jim Sirok, Justin Mariano, Joe Pyrzski, Jesse Santos, Jason Tarkong, and Scott Hayden.

Marianas Pacific Paddlers will have a women's squad in Palau. Members of the team are Ann Jordan, Juliette Sword, Eileen Fleming, Andrea and Valerie Hofschneider, Vaaia Erica Leuta and Leilani Nielson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rusty Musca, left, and Gigi Zapanta pose with their prizes after topping the October roll-offs.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium along with other facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex were reopened last week.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
IT&E's Errol Peredo, right, pulls up for a jumper against Buraot's Gil Gapor during their game in the QQ Cup caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Members of the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club pose for a group photo at Kilili Beach before starting their training for the 12th Micronesian Cup in Palau.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
The Sonics' Leo Galarse challenges the defense of two Rollers C players during their game in the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Brendon Talania pulls up for a floater during their game against SIP-Mobil in the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners listen during a race briefing for the 2010 Saipan Radar Run.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jazy sprints way to pre-Hell win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

HELL OF THE MARIANAS
THE PIC CENTURY CYCLE

Guam's Jazy Garcia did it again, beating Saipan riders in a down-to-the-wire finish in yesterday's pre-Hell of Marianas 50-kilometer race.

Garcia entered the last mile of the race in the company of Saipan's Kieran Daly, Lewie Tenorio, and Butch Sublemente before breaking away from the lead back in the last few meters and sprinting to the finish line.

The Guam rider had his both arms up in the air to celebrate another victory in a warm-up race for the 2010 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle. He completed the tight race in the road bike category in one hour, 38 minutes, and 11.75 seconds.

Tenorio settled for second place with his time of 1:38.13.18, while Sublemente (1:38:13.22) and Daly (1:38:13.24) dropped to third and fourth spot, respectively.

About two weeks ago, these four riders also figured in a neck-and-neck finish with Garcia winning the PIC Bike for Life race against Tenorio by only a second.

But unlike the Bike for Life event where Garcia kept pace over his rivals, the Guam rider this time had to play catch up against Tenorio and company. Garcia was about one-kilometer behind the lead group heading back to Pacific Islands Club and only managed to join

See JAZY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Guam's Jazy Garcia raises his arms in triumph after beating three Saipan riders in a close race yesterday during the pre-Hell of Marianas 50-kilometer event.

Babauta, Jones lead winners in Chamber golf tourney

By WALYTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The pairs of Lorraine Babauta and Shirley Jones and Ned Norita and Jesse Seman led winners in the 3rd Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament played last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Babauta and Jones bested seven other women's teams in the two-person scramble tournament, which had a double peoria format. The winning women's pair carded a net score of 72.80 and gross of 74 to take the $1,000 top purse.

Noriko Togawa and Kimiko Abe with their gross 72 and net 73.20 settled for second place and $600, while Mio Kim and Jeong Young Kim finished third and pocketed $400 after tallying a gross 77 and net 73.40. Lou Kim and Terry Tudela (gross 82 and 73.60) placed fourth.

In the men's division, Ned Norita and Jesse Seman carded a net 68.40 to walk away with the $1,000 top prize and beat 58 other tandems.

Rounding out the Top 3 were the duos of Kang Seung Woo and Lee Jeung Won and Ralph Yumul and Carl

See BABAUTA on Page 26

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Shirley Jones, center, and Lorraine Babauta, receive the $1,000 women's low net cash prize in the 2010 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament from Chamber's Jay Santos during the award ceremony at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Sat-

MDX-Chow Queen stays alive

MDX-Chow Queen's Kelvin Fitial goes for a reverse layup against Cavite defenders during their playoff game in the UFO caging last Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion MDX-Chow Queen is a win away from a return trip to the finals, following a 100-82 win over Cavite during their altercation-marred playoff game in the open division of the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League last Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

A jackrabbit start put MDX in control of the match, as the defending champion jumped to a 32-4 lead at the end of the opening quarter. MDX kept its 20-plus lead in the first three periods and the match seemed headed for an early finish until a row erupted at the 4:08 mark of the fourth quarter and delayed the game for several minutes

The fight was triggered by an altercation between MDX's Kae Bernardo and Cavite's Tim Wesley. Bernardo drove to the basket, sandwiched by Wesley and Francis Rebuyon, and lost the ball. Claiming he was pushed in the botched play, Bernardo looked back at

See MDX on Page 26

Ol'Aces, Rollers A dominate foes

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and Rollers A cruised to easy wins against separates foes in the U19 division of the 2010 Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces played in the first game and whipped Rollers B, 82-66, while Rollers A dominated sister team Rollers C in the second match, 69-49.

Juan Maratita paced Ol'Aces with 27 points. His eight markers in the first quarter helped the Ol'Aces build a 22-15 advantage. Rollers B trailed as it had only Savali Talalemotu scoring the first eight points of the team.

In the second period, it was Trevor

See OL'ACES on Page 26

The Ol'Aces' Juan Maratita hangs in the air as he pulls up for a jumper against a Rollers B defender during their game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. WALTER SUTHERLAND